ing MANGA

BLOOD ALONE

#Manga-Sketchbook@IrcHighway
http://www.manga-sketchbook.org/

Translator : Kentaro Abe

English Adaptation : Je-Wa Jeong

Editor : Je-Wa Jeong / Miho Koto / Soung Lee / Kentaro Abe

Layout : Miho Koto

Quality Assurance : Michael Lee

Art Director : Soung Lee

Licensing : Masayoshi Kojima

Vice President : Steve Chung

C.E.O. : Jay Chung

Blood Alone Volume 2 © MASAYUKI TAKANO 2005
First published in 2005 by Media Works Inc., Tokyo, Japan.
English translation rights arranged with Media Works Inc.

Publisher
Infinity Studios, LLC
525 South 31st St.
Richmond, CA 94804
www.infinitystudios.com

Second Edition November 2006
ISBN 1 59697 252 1

Printed in China

BLOOD ALONE

The Characters

Kuroe Kurose

A young man who makes a living as a novelist, and works on the side as a P.I. & man for hire. Thanks to the special abilities his eyes have gained, he can see past any tricks by anyone with supernatural powers. He is a bit naive to the feelings of women around him, and he currently lives with Misaki as her guardian.

Misaki Minato

Little is known about her past except for the fact that her father was a famous musician. Both she and her father were targeted by vampires, and Misaki has been turned as a result. However, the vampire side of her still lays dormant, so she acts no differently than any other girl her age.

Sayaka Sainome

She is the daughter of a rich doctor, and currently works as the chief of the forensics department with the police. She's known Kuroe since their days as students, and she occasionally calls upon Kuroe for his special abilities. She possibly has feelings for Kuroe, and she also apparently has a special ability.

Higure

Despite his looks and the way he acts, he is one of the most powerful vampires left alive. He is a friend of Misaki, and as an older vampire, he is also in a sense her mentor.

Sly

A vampire who is in the business of selling information, as well as working as a man for hire. He apparently has a good working relationship with Kuroe, and hates vampires for turning him into one.

The story so far...

Upon seeing his sister taken from him by a vampire, his life's mission was to find his sister and get revenge on the vampire who shattered his life. With the power he gained through an injury he received to his eyes, he traveled to Europe where a famous vampire hunter trained him to become one of the feared humans alive by vampires.

Currently, he lives in Japan with a young girl named Misaki who had the unfortunately fate of being turned. While he thinks of her more as a daughter or as a younger sister, she sees things very differently.

Contents

Episode 7
YOU'RE ALL I NEED 5
ただ、あなたのそばにいて Just Being by Your Side

Episode 8
YOUR SMILE 41
私の知らない笑顔 A Smile I Never Knew About

Episode 9
ANOTHER FACE 69
彼女の秘密 Her Secret

Episode 10
SWEET MUSIC 103
心ふるわせる音楽 Music That Soothes the Soul

Episode 11
VALENTINE NIGHT 129
チョコレート失踪事件 The Missing Chocolate Incident

Episode 12
WHY CRY? part 1 145
真紅の剣 The Crimson Sword

Episode 13
WHY CRY? part 2 167

Episode 14
WHY CRY? part 3 187

!!
SLAP
WHAT WERE YOU THINKING?!
.....
ARE YOU TRYING TO THROW YOUR LIFE AWAY~?!
YOU'RE HANGING AROUND THOSE DANGEROUS PEOPLE...
ALL THIS TIME, YOU DON'T EVEN BOTHER TO CONTACT US, AND WHEN I FINALLY TRACK YOU DOWN

IT'S NOT LIKE I ASKED YOU TO WORRY ABOUT ME.
IT... IT'S...
WELL?! WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO SAY FOR YOURSELF?!
DO YOU KNOW JUST HOW MUCH YOU MADE ME WORRY?!
That's got to hurt~
SLAP
BESIDES, HOW AND WHEN I DIE IS NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS.
HOW CAN YOU SAY IT'S NONE OF MY BUSINESS?!!
YOU'RE THE ONLY LITTLE BROTHER I HAVE IN THIS WORLD!!
STOP TALKING ABOUT DYING AS IF IT WAS NOTHING, STUPID!!

I...
IF YOU EVER DID DIE...
I...
!!
I DIDN'T MEAN TO WORRY YOU...
I... I'M SORRY...
IS THAT ALL YOU HAVE TO SAY FOR YOURSELF..?!
WHEN I HEARD WHAT YOU WERE DOING HERE, MY HEART ALMOST STOPPED!!
NOW, NOW...
MISS.
FLINCH
!!
TAP
I'M SURE HE'S JUST HAVING A HARD TIME CONVEYING HOW HE REALLY FEELS DEEP DOWN INSIDE.
I THINK YOUR BROTHER UNDERSTANDS WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO SAY

I... I'M SO SORRY MR. KUROE!
I GOT SO CARRIED AWAY IN OUR CONVERSATION AND ./
I'VE ALREADY HAD A TALK WITH YOUR BROTHER'S "FRIENDS" IN THIS CITY
SO I DOUBT THEY'LL BE BOTHERING HIM AGAIN IN THE FUTURE.
THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH.
NOT ONLY DID YOU FIND MY LITTLE BROTHER FOR ME, YOU EVEN WENT OUT OF YOUR WAY TO DO THAT...
I DON'T KNOW HOW I CAN THANK YOU ENOUGH.
IT'S ALRIGHT MISS.
IT WASN'T TOO MUCH TROUBLE AND IT IS PART OF MY JOB.

THANKS...
O... OF COURSE.
IF I MAY, I'D LIKE TO RECOMMEND THAT YOUR BROTHER NEVER COME NEAR THIS CITY AGAIN
COME ON NOW, DID YOU THANK MR. KUROE YET?
BECAUSE EVEN THOSE MEN HAVE THEIR PRIDE.
Hmmm...
MAKE SURE NOT TO WORRY YOUR SISTER ANYMORE../
THE TRAIN ON PLATFORM 12 WILL BE DEPARTING SOON.
KYUUN
POOM

I'M HOME.
WELCOME BACK.
YOU MUST BE TIRED .. SO HOW DID THE JOB GO?
IT ALL WORKED OUT SOMEHOW.

I SEE~ SO THAT MUST MEAN YOU DIPLOMATICALLY BEAT THEM UP
I ENDED UP HAVING TO DEAL WITH SOME UNPLEASANT PEOPLE
SLUMP
SO IT WAS TOUGH TRYING TO TALK TO THEM DIPLOMATICALLY
HEY, HEY~ NOW YOU'RE MAKING ME SOUND LIKE THE BAD GUY..
BUT I GUESS I CAN UNDERSTAND, SINCE THAT NE-SAN WAS SUCH A BEAUTIFUL YOUNG WOMAN RIGHT?
WELL, YOU HAVE TO ADMIT YOU WENT ALL OUT ON THIS LAST JOB~
YOU KNOW, I DON'T EXACTLY CHOOSE MY CLIENTS BASED ON THEIR LOOKS.
BY THE WAY, WHY DON'T YOU CALL IT A DAY AND RELAX FOR A WHILE?
YEAH, I THINK I'LL DO THAT...
YOU DIDN'T HAVE ANYTHING ELSE LEFT TO DO TODAY, RIGHT?
OH REALLY~? SOMETIMES I WONDER ABOUT THAT~
SIGH~

Note: Ne-san = (older) sister

SIGH—
.....
NE-SAN...
HUH.
CLINK
RUSTLE

CLANK
MOTOE NE-SAN...
OH, I ALMOST FORGOT~

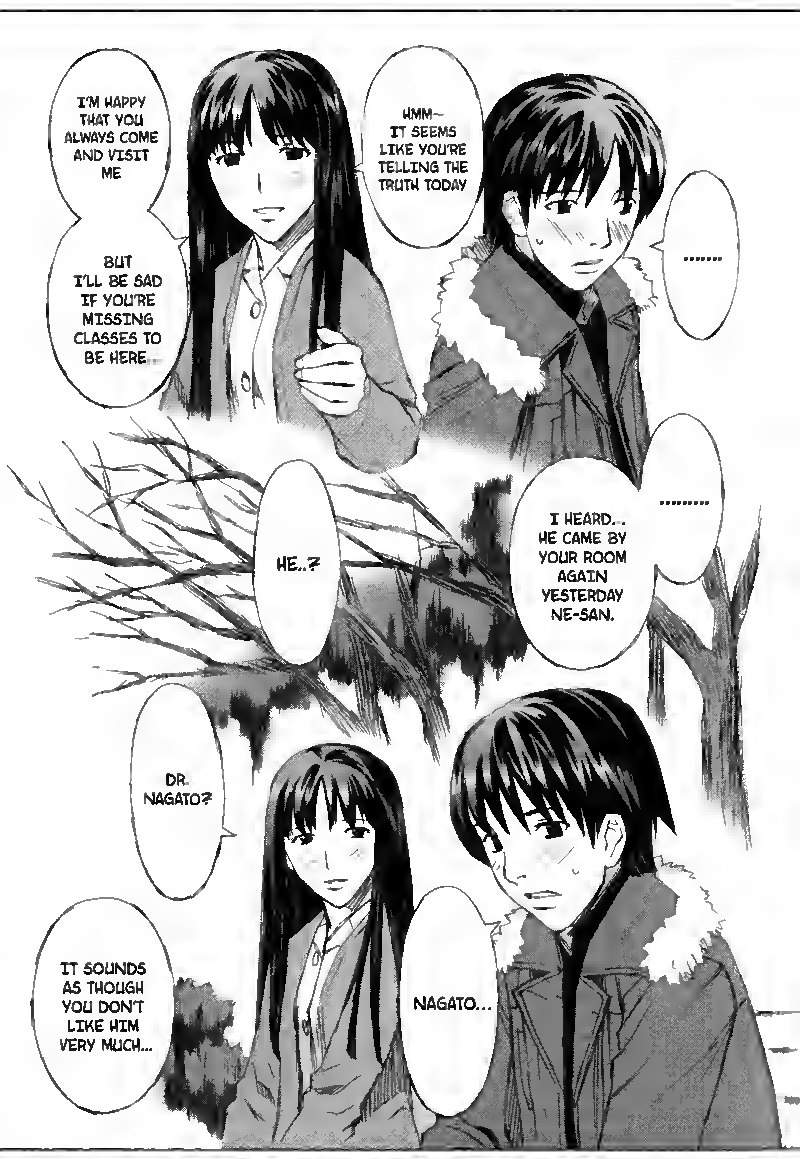
KUROE..?
CREAK
I'LL BE GOING OVER TO SAINOME'S PLACE TO HANG OUT FOR A WHILE, SO...
GOODNESS .. HE'S ALREADY ASLEEP.
HONESTLY—/ CAN'T HE AT LEAST CHANGE HIS CLOTHES BY HIMSELF BEFORE GOING TO SLEEP?
ZZZZZ

.....
ISN'T THAT...
NE-SAN...

NE-SAN!
KUROE...
I'VE BEEN LOOKING ALL OVER FOR YOU
I'M SORRY
I FELT MUCH BETTER TODAY, SO I THOUGHT I'D COME OUTSIDE FOR A WHILE.
YOU WEREN'T IN YOUR ROOM SO I WAS WORRIED ABOUT YOU

I COULDN'T JUST LET A BEAUTIFUL DAY LIKE THIS GO TO WASTE.
AND LOOK...
I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT...
NO...
BUT AREN'T YOU COLD?
I'M FINE, THANK YOU.

I'M CURIOUS THOUGH, AREN'T YOU HERE A BIT EARLY TODAY?
SHOULDN'T YOU STILL BE AT SCHOOL?
WE'RE HAVING MID-TERMS RIGHT NOW, SO WE GET OUT AT NOON.
YOU AREN'T JUST SAYING THAT AND DITCHING CLASSES ARE YOU..?
DON'T WORRY, I'M NOT DITCHING CLASS ..
NOW YOU DO KNOW...
YOUR SISTER'S EYES CAN SEE RIGHT THROUGH YOU WHEN YOU LIE, RIGHT?


I'M HAPPY THAT YOU ALWAYS COME AND VISIT ME
BUT I'LL BE SAD IF YOU'RE MISSING CLASSES TO BE HERE...
HMM~ IT SEEMS LIKE YOU'RE TELLING THE TRUTH TODAY
.....
I HEARD... HE CAME BY YOUR ROOM AGAIN YESTERDAY NE-SAN.
.....
HE..?
DR. NAGATO?
IT SOUNDS AS THOUGH YOU DON'T LIKE HIM VERY MUCH...
NAGATO...

WELL, HE'S NOT EVEN YOUR DOCTOR NE-SAN...
DR. NAGATO IS THE DOCTOR IN CHARGE OF MAKING ROUNDS DURING THE NIGHT SHIFT
HE ONLY STOPS BY TO CHECK IN ON ME WHEN I DON'T FEEL WELL DURING THE NIGHTS.
NOW DON'T TELL ME...
Chuckle
ARE YOU JEALOUS KUROE--?
IT...
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT
IT'S JUST...
I'M NOT EXACTLY SURE WHY, BUT THERE'S SOMETHING NOT RIGHT ABOUT HIM...
.....

I GUESS IT'S ONLY NATURAL FOR PEOPLE TO THINK THAT OF DR NAGATO...
AFTER ALL, HE DOES ACT A BIT STRANGE AT TIMES...
.....
DO... DO YOU LIKE HIM NE-SAN?
EH?
YES...
I LIKE HIM.
BUT...

I LIKE YOU THE MOST KUROE.
.....!!
NE-SAN.
DOES THAT MEAN..
THUMP THUMP
THERE, YOU SEE~!
I KNEW YOU WERE JEALOUS~!
CHUCKLE

HUH?
WAIT A MINUTE!
THEN YOU DIDN'T REALLY MEAN ANY OF WHAT YOU JUST SAID?!
MAYBE I DID, MAYBE I DIDN'T, WHO KNOWS--?
IT'S STARTING TO GET COLDER
SURE.
SO LET'S GET YOU BACK TO YOUR ROOM NE-SAN

HERE, I'LL CARRY YOU.
EH?
OH, BUT... THAT WOULD BE TOO EMBARRASSING
LEAN
I'M NOT GOING TO TAKE NO FOR AN ANSWER
HERE, COME ON.
I.
HM?
IT... IT'S NOTHING
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT ALL OF A SUDDEN?
I'LL ALWAYS BE BY YOUR SIDE NE-SAN SO ..
.....

THANK YOU KUROE.
BUT I KIND OF DOUBT YOU'LL ALWAYS WANT TO BE BY MY SIDE..
SOMEONE WHO WILL BE MORE IMPORTANT TO YOU THAN ME...
BECAUSE ONE DAY, EVEN YOU WILL MEET THAT VERY SPECIAL PERSON THAT YOU'RE MEANT TO BE WITH.
THAT'LL NEVER HAPPEN.
NO, I KNOW IT WILL HAPPEN... I'M YOUR SISTER, I KNOW YOU TOO WELL.
BUT KUROE...
UNTIL THAT TIME COMES...

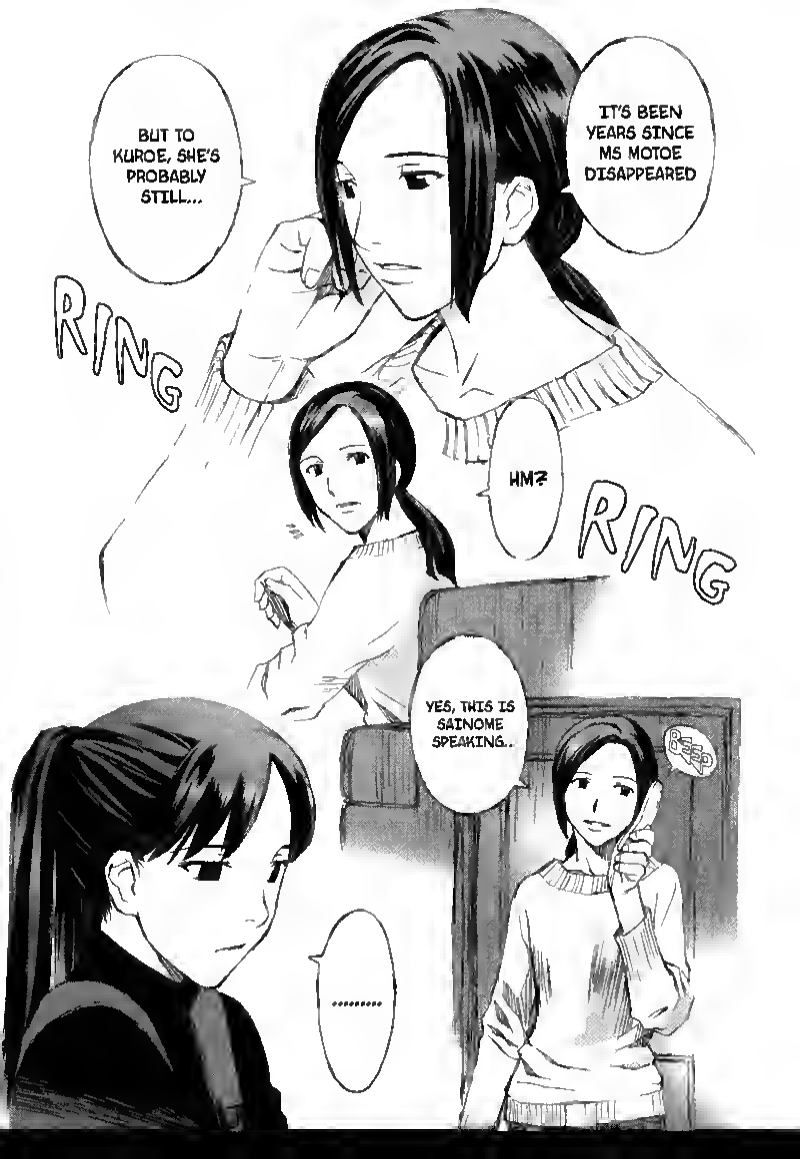
THAT'S PROBABLY MS MOTOE YOU SAW IN THE PICTURE...
.....
MS MOTOE?
HASN'T KUROE TOLD YOU ABOUT MS MOTOE?
ONLY A LITTLE...
HE HARDLY EVER TELLS ME ABOUT HIS PAST...
SHE'S KUROE'S OLDER SISTER.
AND IT'S BEEN YEARS SINCE SHE WENT MISSING...

SHE WAS VERY BEAUTIFUL...
AND THERE WAS SOMETHING MYSTERIOUS ABOUT HER THAT MADE HER EVEN MORE ATTRACTIVE...
FOR SOME REASON, WHENEVER SHE LOOKED AT YOU, YOU COULDN'T HELP BUT BE HONEST WITH YOURSELF.
DOES THAT MEAN YOU'VE MET HER BEFORE..?
YES
SHE WAS HOSPITALIZED AT MY FATHER'S HOSPITAL
AND BECAUSE HER HEALTH WASN'T SO GOOD, SHE STAYED AT THE HOSPITAL FOR A VERY LONG PERIOD OF TIME.
I REMEMBER KUROE WOULD OFTEN CUT CLASSES TO COME VISIT HER

WHAT KIND OF PERSON WAS HE?
THEN YOU'VE KNOWN KUROE SINCE YOU WERE KIDS?
WELL, YEAH~
HMM~ YOU MIGHT GET A BIT JEALOUS IF I TELL YOU BUT ..
HE WAS CAPTAIN OF THE SOCCER TEAM, AND HE WAS THEIR BEST PLAYER~
KUROE~♡
KYAA~♡
DASH
AND OF COURSE, HE WAS EXTREMELY POPULAR WITH THE GIRLS.
IT'S KIND OF HARD TO IMAGINE KUROE ACTUALLY ENJOYING SWEATING AND PLAYING SPORTS.
Who the heck is that?
SOMEHOW, THAT DOESN'T SOUND VERY MUCH LIKE HIM..
.....
BEAMING WITH ENERGY

AHA HA HA— NOW THAT'S NOT A VERY NICE THING TO SAY—
ALTHOUGH THAT'S EXACTLY HOW HE WAS.
You know, kind of like a Loner...
I THOUGHT HE WOULD HAVE BEEN MORE GLOOMIER.
Hmm~
EH?
THE TRUTH IS, HE WAS A GLOOMY YOUNG MAN IN SOME ACADEMIC CLUB.
~Geeze~
SO THEN THE SOCCER THING WAS A LIE ?
NOW THAT'S NOT VERY NICE CALLING HIM A GLOOMY YOUNG MAN .
WELL, YOU SAID IT FIRST~
CHUCKLE
BUT IT WAS TRUE THAT HE WAS POPULAR WITH THE GIRLS...
ALTHOUGH HE WAS TOO NAIVE TO NOTICE IT HIMSELF.

AND BESIDES...
HE ALREADY HAD SOMEONE WHO HE LOVED VERY MUCH...
.....
BUT... SHE WAS HIS SISTER...
IT'S BECAUSE SHE WAS HIS SISTER.
AFTER THEY LOST THEIR PARENTS AT A YOUNG AGE, THE ONLY FAMILY THOSE TWO HAD WERE EACH OTHER.


IT'S BEEN YEARS SINCE MS MOTOE DISAPPEARED
BUT TO KUROE, SHE'S PROBABLY STILL...
RING
HM?
RING
YES, THIS IS SAINOME SPEAKING..
Beep
.....

HELLO..?
IT'S KUROE.
MISAKI
OK.
NO, I'M FINE...
I CAN STILL CATCH THE LAST TRAIN
HUH? BUT..
OK, THEN.
I'LL BE WAITING

WHAT DID HE SAY?
HE SAID HE'LL COME BY TO PICK ME UP.
CLICK
IT... IT'S NOT LIKE THAT AT ALL...
OH--? IT MUST BE NICE BEING A PRINCESS--
NO MATTER WHERE YOU GO, YOUR KNIGHT IN SHINING ARMOR WILL ALWAYS COME RUSHING TO YOUR SIDE ON HIS WHITE HORSE!
BUT HE ALWAYS DOES, DOESN'T HE?
EH HE HE...
SEE, I KNEW IT.
I'm glad you're being honest

WELL OF COURSE I DO. I'M OLDER THAN YOU, AND I'VE KNOWN HIM FOR A LONG TIME.
YOU SURE KNOW A LOT OF THINGS ABOUT KUROE THAT I DIDN'T KNOW...
I DON'T EXACTLY SLEEP ON THE SAME BED WITH HIM EVERY NIGHT, SO I WOULDN'T KNOW THINGS LIKE WHAT KIND OF CLOTHES HE WEARS TO BED...
BUT UNLIKE YOU...
!!
CHUCKLE
I GUESS SHE'S NOT GOING TO DENY THE FACT THEY SLEEP ON THE SAME BED.
WE... WE ONLY SLEEP TOGETHER BECAUSE KUROE'S BED IS LARGER AND EASIER TO SLEEP IN.
EVEN WITH BOTH OF US IN HIS BED THERE'S STILL A LOT OF ROOM LEFT OVER

WHA— WHAT'S WITH THAT LOOK ON YOUR FACE?
NOTHING
THERE'S ABSOLUTELY NOTHING STRANGE ABOUT US SLEEPING IN THE SAME BED
I GUESS SO~
OK, OK. I GET IT.
DING DONG
GIGGLE
I'M SERIOUS!!
Hrmm~
I'M TELLING YOU, THERE'S NOTHING FUNNY ABOUT IT!!

GOOD EVENING
HEY~
IT APPEARS THE SLUMBERING KNIGHT HAS ARRIVED.
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
SLUMBER-ING?
WE WERE JUST TALKING ABOUT HOW YOU AND THE LITTLE PRINCESS SHARE A BED TOGETHER.
OH...
CAN YOU BELIEVE BEING A VAMPIRE AND ALL
MISAKI'S STILL SCARED OF GHOSTS AND MONSTERS.
CLICK
!!

UWAAA!!
SHE GETS SCARED WHEN SHE HAS TO SLEEP ALONE...
?
OH, I SEE...
BLANK
CHUCKLE
SO SHE'S SCARED OF SLEEPING ALONE~
BONG BONG
Uuu~
GLARE
GEEZE..!! WHY DID YOU HAVE TO TELL HER ABOUT THAT YOU DORK!!
HUH? BUT WHY NOT?

GOOD NIGHT YOU TWO, AND BE CAREFUL ON YOUR WAY BACK.
GOOD NIGHT SAINOME
MISAKI... YOU MIGHT STILL BE FAR FROM IT, BUT...
WE'LL SEE YOU LATER.
TODAY, SAINOME TOLD ME A LOT OF THINGS ABOUT WHEN YOU WERE YOUNG.
HUH?
WHE... WHEN I WAS YOUNG?!

YEAH, LIKE STORIES INVOLVING YOU AND OTHER GIRLS—
O... OTHER GIRLS?!
I BET YOU'RE CURIOUS AREN'T YOU?
IF IT'S YOU, YOU MAY BE ABLE TO REACH THROUGH TO HIM...
NOT REALLY...
OH COME ON, THERE'S NO NEED TO ACT SO TOUGH.
ADMIT IT, YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT WE TALKED ABOUT DON'T YOU?
TAP

ing MANGA

BLOOD ALONE

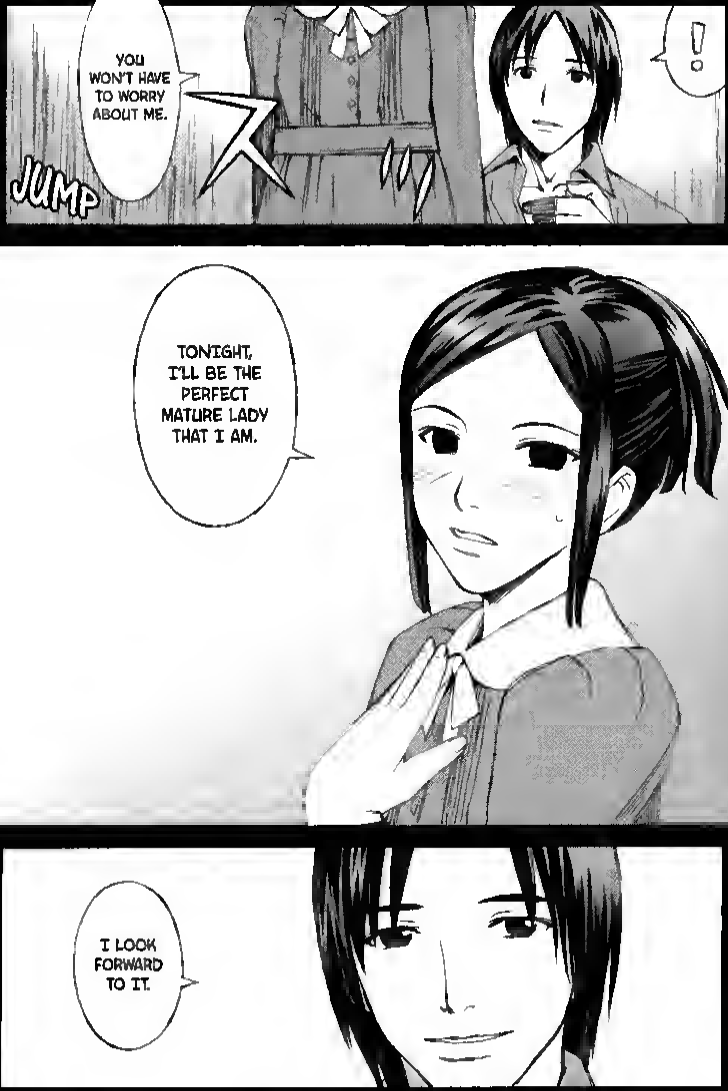
#Manga-Sketchbook@IrcHighway
http://www.manga-sketchbook.org/

Episode 8

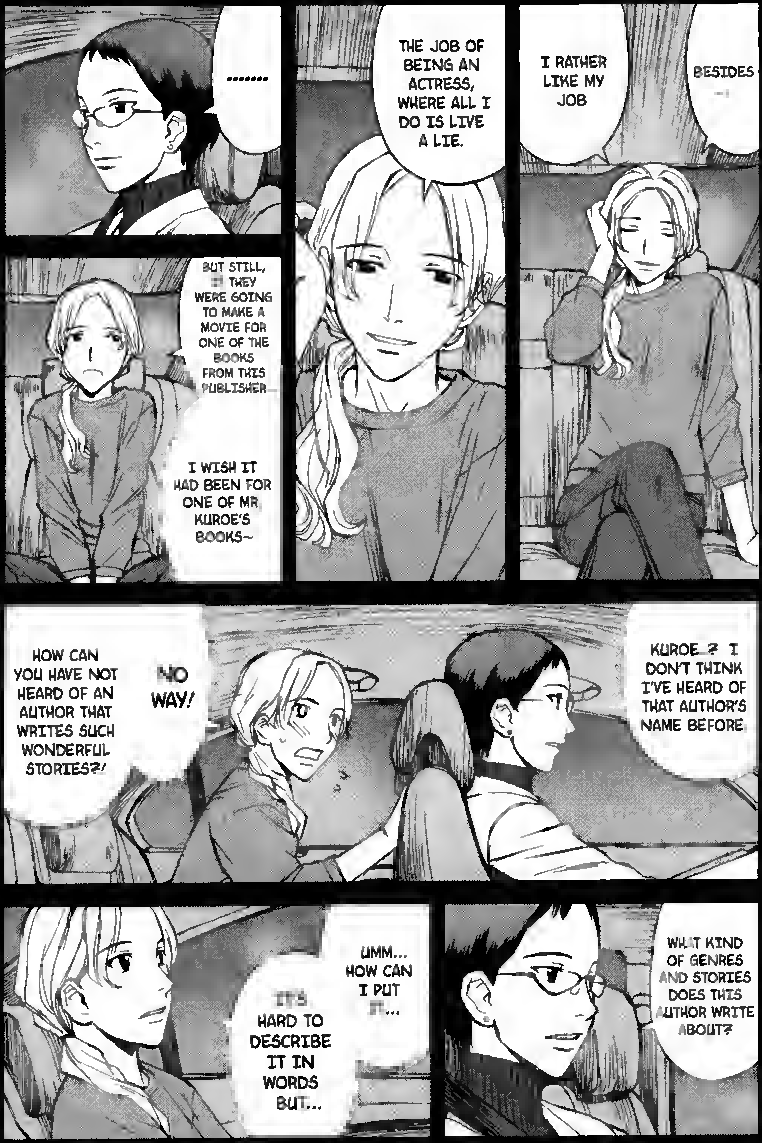
YOUR SMILE

私の知らない笑顔 – A Smile I Never Knew About

ARE YOU SURE IT'S OK TO TAKE ME ALONG?
HM?
KUROE...
YOU MIGHT BE RIGHT...
I SUPPOSE IT MAY BE A BIT EARLY TO BE TAKING A CHILD LIKE MS MISAKI ALONG.
DID YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND ABOUT COMING ALONG?
HMP


YOU WON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT ME.
JUMP
!
TONIGHT, I'LL BE THE PERFECT MATURE LADY THAT I AM.
I LOOK FORWARD TO IT.

I KNOW I PROBABLY SHOULDN'T SAY THIS, BUT...
I REALLY DON'T LIKE THAT AUTHOR AT ALL.
MELODRAMAS AND TEAR JERKERS WERE NEVER REALLY MY THING.
EVEN IF YOU DON'T LIKE THAT AUTHOR PERSONALLY, PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU DON'T SAY ANYTHING EXPLOSIVE LIKE THAT AT THE PARTY OR IN FRONT OF THE AUTHOR.
MS YURI.
I KNOW, I KNOW
I WOULDN'T DO ANYTHING TO RUIN THE TINY MANAGEMENT COMPANY THAT I LOVE SO MUCH
AND IT'S NOT LIKE I'M THAT BIG OF A STAR WHO CAN PICK AND CHOOSE THE PARTS I PLAY
I'M GLAD YOU UNDER-STAND.


.....
BUT STILL, THEY WERE GOING TO MAKE A MOVIE FOR ONE OF THE BOOKS FROM THIS PUBLISHER...
I WISH IT HAD BEEN FOR ONE OF MR. KUROE'S BOOKS~
THE JOB OF BEING AN ACTRESS, WHERE ALL I DO IS LIVE A LIE.
I RATHER LIKE MY JOB
BESIDES
KUROE...? I DON'T THINK I'VE HEARD OF THAT AUTHOR'S NAME BEFORE.
NO WAY!
HOW CAN YOU HAVE NOT HEARD OF AN AUTHOR THAT WRITES SUCH WONDERFUL STORIES?!
WHAT KIND OF GENRES AND STORIES DOES THIS AUTHOR WRITE ABOUT?
UMM... HOW CAN I PUT IT...
IT'S HARD TO DESCRIBE IT IN WORDS BUT...

IT'S LIKE YOU'RE SLEEPING IN THE ARMS OF SOMEONE YOU LOVE.
AFTER YOU'VE FINISHED READING ONE OF HIS BOOKS, YOU FEEL SO AT PEACE AND GOOD ABOUT EVERYTHING.
I WAS JUST AMAZED THAT YOU STILL HAD THE HEART OF A YOUNG INNOCENT MAIDEN DEEP DOWN INSIDE... WELL AT LEAST A LITTLE.
YOU COULD HAVE FOOLED ME THOUGH... UNTIL NOW, I COMPLETELY THOUGHT YOU WERE LIKE A MIDDLE AGED MAN DEEP DOWN INSIDE.
WHAT? IS THERE SOMETHING YOU FIND STRANGE ABOUT THAT?
HOW... INTERE-STING~
WELL, I COULDN'T GO HOME THANKS TO YOU, REMEMBER?
BY THE WAY, AREN'T THOSE THE SAME CLOTHES YOU HAD ON YESTERDAY?
YOU STAYED OVER AT YOUR BOYFRIEND'S PLACE ALL NIGHT DIDN'T YOU~?
.....

WOW~
ARE ALL PARTIES THROWN BY BOOK PUBLISHERS ALWAYS AT NICE PLACES LIKE THIS?
GOOD EVENING SIR.
GOOD EVENING MS MATSUDA.
OH REALLY~
TODAY IS A BIT SPECIAL
ONE OF THE AUTHORS AT OUR PUBLISHING COMPANY IS HAVING HIS BOOK TURNED INTO A MOVIE.

MAY I TALK TO YOU FOR A MOMENT SIR?
OF COURSE.
NO, NO I SHOULD BE THANKING YOU~
Narration
SHE'S KUROE'S EDITOR.
GOOD EVENING MISAKI.
GOOD EVENING THANK YOU FOR ALWAYS TAKING CARE OF KUROE.
GASP!
OK
I'LL BE BACK SOON MISAKI.
IF I KEEP STARING AT EVERYTHING LIKE THIS, I'LL LOOK LIKE A KID.
THAT'S RIGHT
IT'S EVEN MAKING ME A BIT NERVOUS NOW
ANYWAYS, THIS PLACE IS REALLY AMAZING— EVEN THIS HALLWAY IS SO GRAND
I'M HERE AS A MATURE LADY TONIGHT, SO I'D BETTER GET MY ACT TOGETHER!

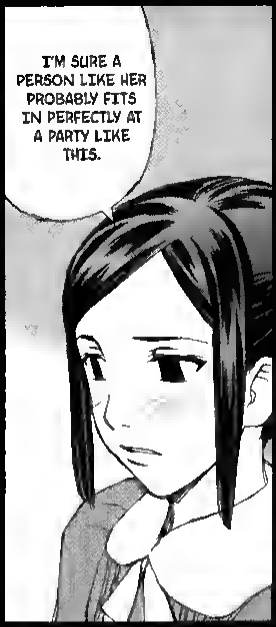
.....
TURN
WHA..?
GONG
BUMP
KYA..?!
OH, UM... OF COURSE!
MS YURI! WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS!!
AH..!
SORRY--
ARE YOU OK?
I'M SORRY I'M KIND OF IN A HURRY SO...
GEEZE-- I THOUGHT YOU SAID THIS WAS A SHORTCUT MS YURI!
SHE SEEMS KIND OF OUT OF PLACE HERE...
NO REALLY! EVERY OTHER TIME I'VE BEEN HERE, IT WAS QUICKER THIS WAY

I WONDER WHAT KUROE IS TALKING ABOUT...
I'M NOT SURE IF THIS IS THE PROPER TIME AND PLACE TO BE TALKING ABOUT THIS, BUT
YOU DO HAVE A POINT...
I DON'T THINK "SHE" FITS IN VERY WELL WITH EVERYONE ELSE.
"SHE" DOES SEEM OUT OF PLACE...
WOULD YOU THINK IT BEST IF I MADE HER LEAVE SOONER?

IF I'M NOT SUITED TO BE HERE, HE SHOULDN'T HAVE BROUGHT ME TO BEGIN WITH—!
WE JUST GOT HERE, AND THEY'VE ALREADY DECIDED I SHOULDN'T BE HERE WITHOUT EVEN GIVING ME A CHANCE...
IT...
IT'S NOT FAIR...
WORST OF ALL...
I CAN'T BELIEVE HE'S TALKING ABOUT ME LIKE THIS BEHIND MY BACK...!
OF COURSE.
ALSO, AFTER THE PARTY...
IN ANY CASE, I GUESS WE CAN DISCUSS MORE ABOUT THAT PARTICULAR CHARACTER IN YOUR NEW BOOK LATER...

AS A SPECIAL GUEST, THE STAR OF THIS MOVIE
MS YURI TAKEUCHI, HAS MADE TIME OUT OF HER BUSY SCHEDULE TO ATTEND TONIGHT'S CELEBRATION
WHEN I WAS TOLD I WOULD BE PLAYING THE STARRING ROLE OF THIS FILM...
A REAL LIFE MOVIE STAR SURE HAS A DIFFERENT AURA THAN THE REST OF US, WOULDN'T YOU AGREE?
I GUESS SO..

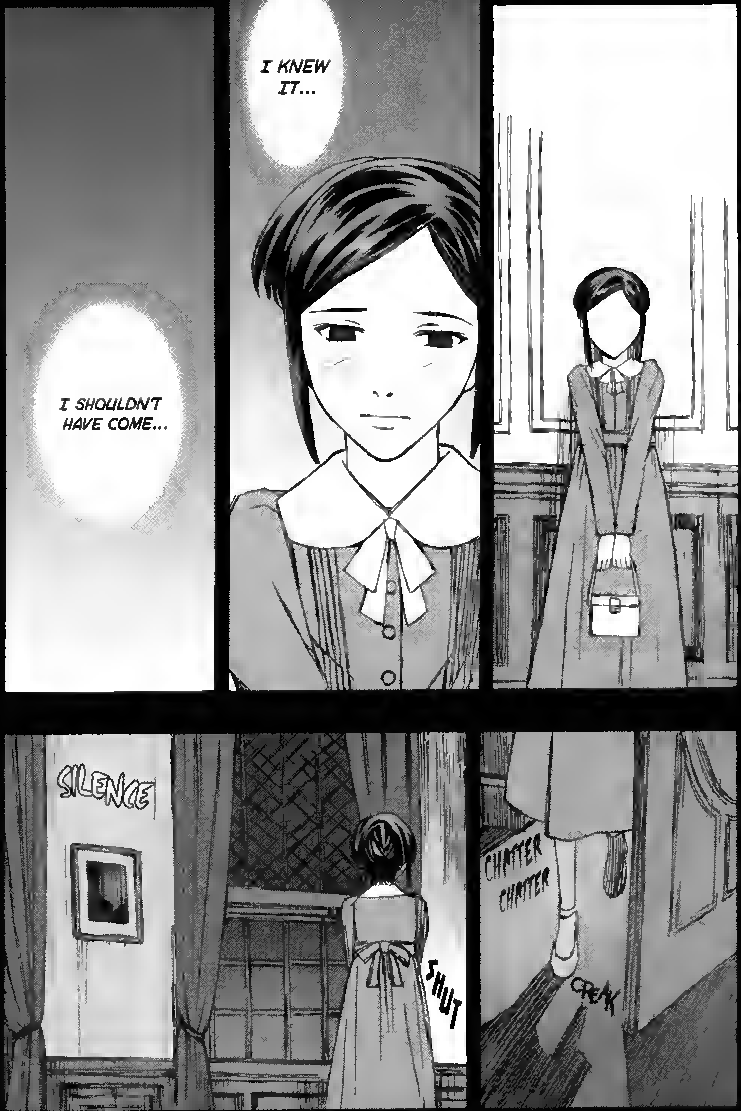
?


I'M SURE A PERSON LIKE HER PROBABLY FITS IN PERFECTLY AT A PARTY LIKE THIS.

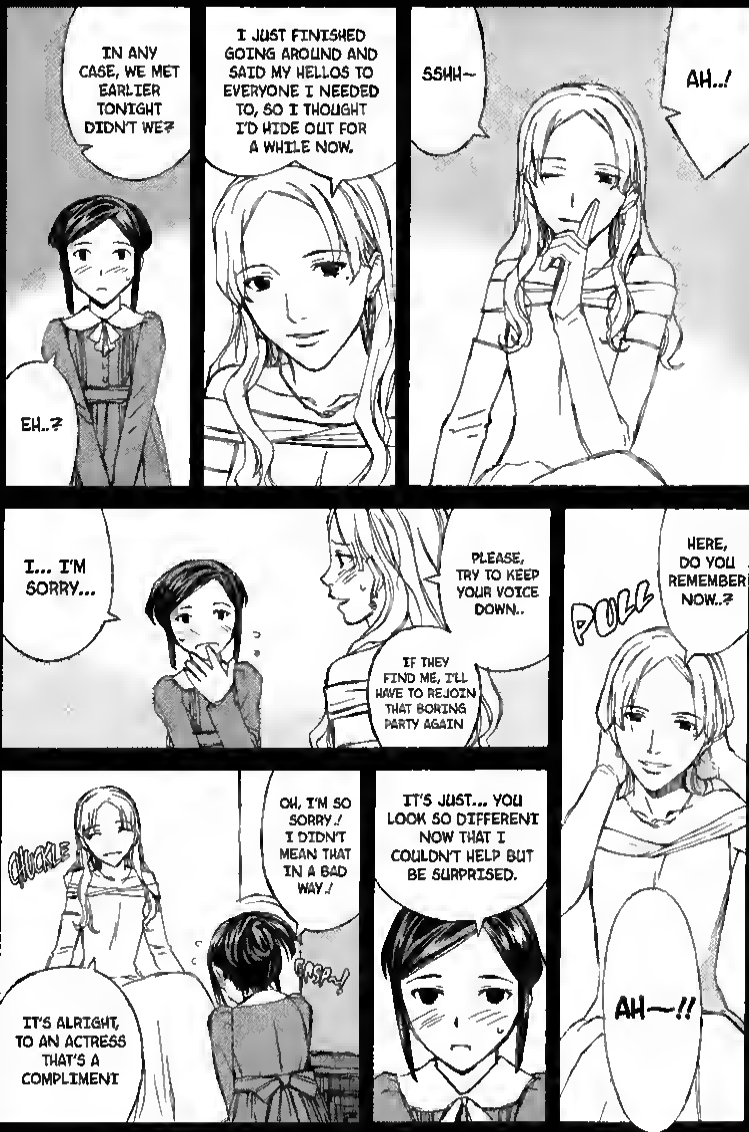
SIR!!
WHAT'S WRONG? WHY ARE YOU IN SUCH A BAD MOOD ALL OF A SUDDEN?

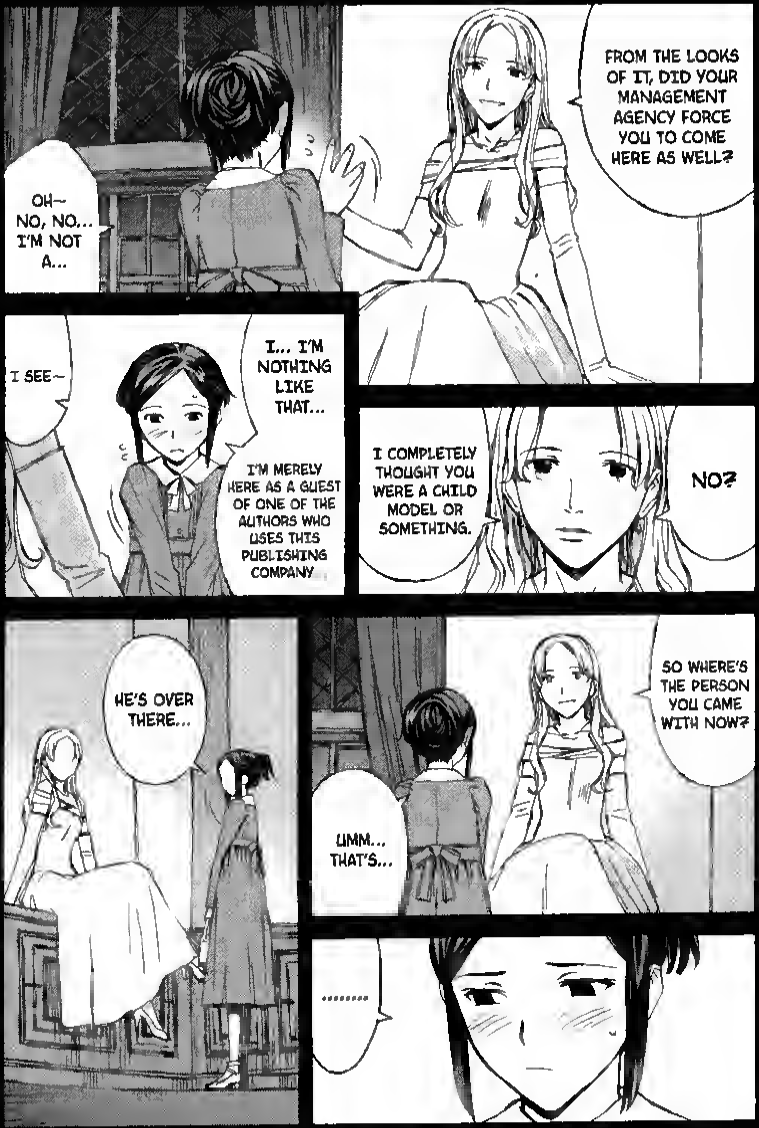
SILENCE

OH, UM... SURE.
THERE'S SOME PEOPLE I'D LIKE TO INTRODUCE YOU TO OVER THERE.!


I KNEW IT...
I SHOULDN'T HAVE COME...
SILENCE
SHUT
CHATTER
CHATTER
CREAK

IS SOMETHING THE MATTER MISS?
THAT WAS A RATHER LONG SIGH...
SIGH—
NOW WHY WOULD YOU WANT TO SHY AWAY FROM THE PARTY AND COME HIDE IN A DARK CORNER LIKE [MISS.]?
!!
GOOD EVENING.


IN ANY CASE, WE MET EARLIER TONIGHT DIDN'T WE?
EH..?
I JUST FINISHED GOING AROUND AND SAID MY HELLOS TO EVERYONE I NEEDED TO, SO I THOUGHT I'D HIDE OUT FOR A WHILE NOW.
SSHH~
AH..!
I... I'M SORRY...
PLEASE, TRY TO KEEP YOUR VOICE DOWN..
IF THEY FIND ME, I'LL HAVE TO REJOIN THAT BORING PARTY AGAIN
HERE, DO YOU REMEMBER NOW..?
POUL
AH~!!
IT'S JUST... YOU LOOK SO DIFFERENT NOW THAT I COULDN'T HELP BUT BE SURPRISED.
OH, I'M SO SORRY./ I DIDN'T MEAN THAT IN A BAD WAY./
GASP..!
CHUCKLE
IT'S ALRIGHT, TO AN ACTRESS THAT'S A COMPLIMENT


FROM THE LOOKS OF IT, DID YOUR MANAGEMENT AGENCY FORCE YOU TO COME HERE AS WELL?
OH~ NO, NO... I'M NOT A...
I... I'M NOTHING LIKE THAT...
I'M MERELY HERE AS A GUEST OF ONE OF THE AUTHORS WHO USES THIS PUBLISHING COMPANY
I SEE~
NO?
I COMPLETELY THOUGHT YOU WERE A CHILD MODEL OR SOMETHING.
SO WHERE'S THE PERSON YOU CAME WITH NOW?
UMM... THAT'S...
HE'S OVER THERE...
.....

IT'S BEEN LIKE THAT EVER SINCE WE ARRIVED...
I GET IT NOW, I SEE WHY YOU WERE OVER HERE HIDING BY YOURSELF...
I WONDER IF HE'S HER FATHER...? NO, THAT'S PROBABLY UNLIKELY SINCE HE'S SO YOUNG...
WELL... IF YOU ASK ME, HE LOOKS PRETTY BORED AS WELL
TO ME IT SEEMS LIKE HE'S ENJOYING HIMSELF...
WHAT'S MORE, HE'S NEVER SMILED LIKE THAT FOR ME BEFORE
REALLY? ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THAT ?
I'M NOT VERY SURPRISED HE HASN'T SMILED LIKE THAT FOR YOU BEFORE.
.....?

IN OTHER WORDS, HE'S NOT PUTTING ON THAT SMILE RIGHT NOW BECAUSE HE'S HAPPY OR ENJOYING HIMSELF.
AFTER ALL, THAT'S THE TYPE OF SMILE A PERSON PUTS ON TO GET THROUGH THE SITUATION AND SIMPLY KEEP UP APPEARANCES.
AT THE VERY LEAST, I'M STILL AN ACTRESS.
I CAN EASILY TELL RIGHT AWAY WHEN AN AMATEUR IS PUTTING ON AN ACT.
ISN'T IT OBVIOUS
BUT... HOW CAN YOU TELL ALL THAT?
I'M WILLING TO BET HE WOULD REFUSE TO ESCORT ME EVEN IF I WENT OVER AND ASKED HIM
Ohoho~
YOU KNOW, A PROPER LADY NEEDS TO LEARN TO BE ABLE TO TRUST HER GENTLEMAN ESCORT~
BUT STILL...
WOULD YOU LIKE TO PLACE A WAGER?

EXCUSE ME...
IT'S VERY NICE MEETING YOU, MY NAME IS YURI TAKEUCHI
I HOPE I'M NOT INTRUDING~?
IT'S NICE MEETING YOU AS WELL.
OH... OF COURSE NOT.
HE'S RATHER HANDSOME BUT LOOKS ALONE AREN'T ENOUGH TO INTEREST ME...
MY NAME IS KUROSE AND I'M AN AUTHOR...

Note The author has yet to specify whether "Kurose" is Kuroe's pen name last name or nickname

!!
WHAT DID YOU SAY YOUR NAME WAS..?!
MISAKI!
I'M SORRY BUT SOMETHING CAME UP...
WOULD YOU MIND GOING ON HOME WITHOUT ME?
.....

I... I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS..!

HE DIDN'T EVEN THINK TWICE ABOUT LEAVING ME ALL ALONE TO GO BE WITH HER!

JUST BECAUSE SHE'S A BEAUTIFUL MOVIE ACTRESS...

WHY DID HE EVEN BOTHER TO DRESS ME UP AND BRING ME ALONG..?
KUROE... THAT IDIOT...

?!
ON SECOND THOUGHT, WHY DON'T WE GO HOME TOGETHER?

EH..?
WASN'T... MS TAKEUCHI WAITING FOR YOU?
TAXI
BUT SHE SAID SHE WAS GOING TO...
HUH..?
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!!
I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU MEAN...
WHAT?

I EVEN GOT HIS AUTOGRAPH!!
AND THEN, LOOK~ //
I'M SO HAPPY FOR YOU.
TADA!
YES, YES, I AM.
ARE YOU LISTENING?
HE WAS SO WONDERFUL ~!
HONESTLY~! HE WAS JUST AS AMAZING AS I IMAGINED HE WOULD BE~
YES, YES.
KYAA~
AND THEN, AND THEN~
I OVERHEARD WHAT YOU AND YOUR EDITOR WERE TALKING ABOUT WHEN WE FIRST ARRIVED...
!!
OH, THAT..!
WE WERE TALKING ABOUT ONE OF THE CHARACTERS IN THE BOOK I'M WORKING ON NOW.
LIAR...
I WOULD NEVER SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT
I SHOULDN'T HAVE BROUGHT YOU?

I WOULD MOST DEFINITELY HAVE DITCHED A LITTLE KID LIKE YOU AND GONE WITH HER—!
BUT STILL, IF A PRETTY ACTRESS LIKE MS TAKEUCHI ASKED ME TO ACCOMPANY HER
.....
.....
I WAS WONDERING WHY YOU SEEMED SO DEPRESSED ALL OF A SUDDEN... I THINK I UNDERSTAND NOW.
AND THE REASON I ASKED YOU TO GO HOME AHEAD OF ME WAS BECAUSE MY EDITOR AND I WERE GOING TO DISCUSS THAT SAME NEW BOOK MORE IN DETAIL.
IN THE END THOUGH, WE DECIDED TO HAVE THAT MEETING AT A LATER TIME.
YOU LEFT ME ALL ALONE THE ENTIRE NIGHT, AND THAT'S ALL YOU HAVE TO SAY FOR YOURSELF?
CREEP
HEY, I... I WAS JUST JOKING—
SMACK
OW..!!
THIS IS PAYBACK YOU JERK—!!
UWAA—! OW, OW..!!
UM, SIR... YOU'RE GOING TO GET ME IN TROUBLE IF THE POLICE SEES US.

ing MANGA

BLOOD ALONE

#Manga-Sketchbook@IrcHighway
http://www.manga-sketchbook.org/

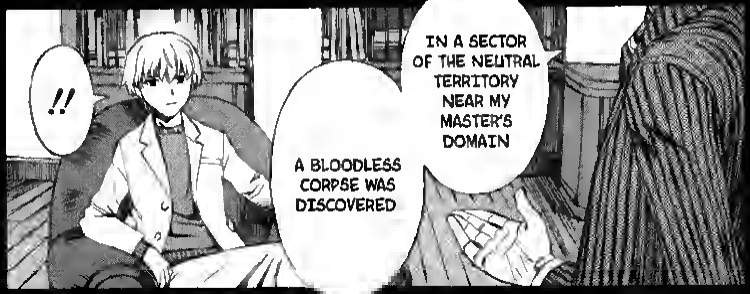
Episode 9

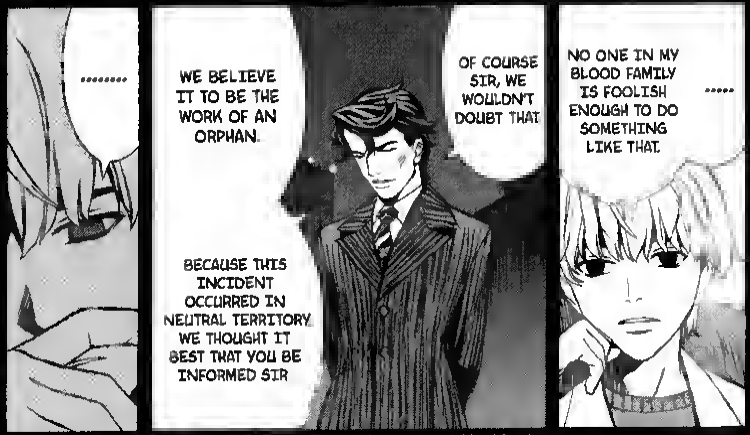
ANOTHER FACE

彼女の秘密 ~ Her Secret

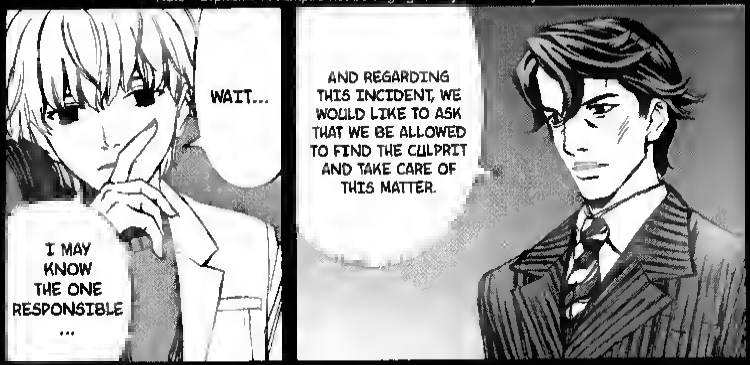
BOSS!!
SWING
FLOP
CLOMP
CLOMP
WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS...
CLARE
WHY ARE YOU MAKING SUCH A COMMOTION?
I... I'M SORRY SIR IT'S...

I APOLOGIZE FOR KEEPING YOU WAITING
YOU MUST BE ONE OF THE COUNT'S SERVANTS...
PLEASE FORGIVE ME FOR DISTURBING YOU DURING YOUR SLEEP MASTER HIGURE
IT'S FINE.
I DOUBT THE COUNT SENT YOU ALL THE WAY OUT HERE SIMPLY TO INVITE ME OVER FOR A CUP OF TEA.
ENOUGH WITH THE PLEASANTRIES. TELL ME WHY YOU'RE HERE.




.....
WE BELIEVE IT TO BE THE WORK OF AN ORPHAN.
BECAUSE THIS INCIDENT OCCURRED IN NEUTRAL TERRITORY, WE THOUGHT IT BEST THAT YOU BE INFORMED SIR
OF COURSE SIR, WE WOULDN'T DOUBT THAT
NO ONE IN MY BLOOD FAMILY IS FOOLISH ENOUGH TO DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT
.....

Note: Orphan = A vampire not belonging to any blood family


WAIT...
I MAY KNOW THE ONE RESPONSIBLE ...
AND REGARDING THIS INCIDENT, WE WOULD LIKE TO ASK THAT WE BE ALLOWED TO FIND THE CULPRIT AND TAKE CARE OF THIS MATTER.

CHOO!!
AH...
FOR THE TIME BEING, I'D APPRECIATE IT IF YOU WOULD LEAVE THIS TO ME
SOMEONE MUST BE TALKING ABOUT ME...
I WONDER IF IT'S KUROE...

WOOSH

.....
SILENCE
TURN
DOES THE OWNER OF THIS HOUSE...
SPIN

IF YOU PREFER NOT TO BE SHOT AT, I RECOMMEND YOU NOT TRY AND SNEAK UP ON ME IN THE SHADOWS.
SHOOT ALL OF HIS GUESTS WITHOUT WARNING?
OH THAT... MIGHT I SUGGEST YOU USE A BETTER ONE FROM NOW ON? EVEN A CAT COULD SLIP THROUGH THAT ONE.
LOCK?
!!
AND ALSO. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE TREATED AS A GUEST...
I WOULD SUGGEST YOU NOT BREAK INTO PEOPLE'S HOUSES BY PICKING THE FRONT DOOR LOCK.
.....

THIS PAST WEEK, HAS SHE GONE OUT... ALONE?
IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR MISAKI, SHE ISN'T HOME RIGHT NOW.
SO, WHAT BRINGS A VAMPIRE BOSS TO A RUMBLE PLACE LIKE THIS?
WHERE IS SHE?
WHO KNOWS--
I'M NOT SURE, BUT SHE PROBABLY WENT OUT SEVERAL TIMES BY HERSELF.
HMM... THEN IT DOESN'T LOOK TOO GOOD.
WHY DO YOU ASK?
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY?
A BLOODLESS CORPSE WAS FOUND.

THE CORPSE WAS FOUND IN NEUTRAL TERRITORY NEAR BOTH MY OWN DOMAIN AND THAT OF ANOTHER ELDER VAMPIRE LIKE MYSELF.
AND TO PUT IT SIMPLY TERRITORIAL MATTERS ARE A RATHER TOUCHY SUBJECT WHEN IT COMES TO VAMPIRES. ESPECIALLY ELDER VAMPIRES
WHAT IS A PROBLEM IS WHERE THAT CORPSE WAS FOUND.
THE FACT THAT SOMEONE HUNTED AND LEFT A CORPSE ISN'T A PROBLEM.
OR CLUELESS ORPHANS WITHOUT ANY BLOOD FAMILY AFFILIATION
THE ONLY ONES WHO WOULD DARE TO HUNT EVEN REMOTELY CLOSE TO OUR TERRITORIES ARE FOOLISH VAMPIRES WHO ARE INTENTIONALLY TRYING TO PICK A FIGHT
SHE'S NEVER HUNTED BEFORE AND WOULDN'T EVEN KNOW WHERE TO BEGIN.
IF YOU'RE THINKING MISAKI IS RESPONSIBLE I CAN TELL YOU RIGHT AWAY THAT SHE ISN'T.
YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE SHE IS RIGHT NOW.
CAN YOU REALLY SAY THAT WITHOUT ANY DOUBT?
DO YOU REALLY THINK YOU KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT HER?
AND BESIDES SHE WOULD NEVER DRINK BLOOD DIRECTLY FROM SOMEONE'S NECK.

IF IT TURNS OUT THAT SHE IS INDEED THE ONE WHO LEFT THAT CORPSE...
EVEN I WON'T BE ABLE TO PROTECT HER IF SHE CONTINUES ON IN THIS MANNER.
IS THERE ANY PROOF..?
AS LONG AS SHE'S A VAMPIRE, SHE'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO FIGHT THE URGE TO DRINK BLOOD
IT ISN'T TOO FAR FETCHED TO BELIEVE THAT SHE SOMEHOW LEARNED THE PLEASURE OF THE HUNT ON HER OWN.
NO.
I STOPPED BY TODAY MERELY TO WARN YOU.
IF SHE IS IMPORTANT TO YOU, I SUGGEST YOU DON'T LET HER OUT OF YOUR SIGHT FROM NOW ON.

CREAK
.....
I... I'M HOME...
RUSTLE
!!
WELCOME BACK

.....
UMM... LET'S JUST SAY I TOOK AN EVENING STROLL OUTSIDE BY MYSELF.
WHERE DID YOU GO?
OK?
EH?!
NO... NOTHING IMPORTANT.
WHAT'S IN THE BAG?
UWAA~!
LET ME SEE IT..
DON'T TELL ME IT'S BLOOD STAINED CLOTHES..?!
THEN WHY ARE YOU TRYING TO HIDE IT?
THA... THAT'S...
NO STOP !!
SLAP
I SAID LET ME SEE IT!!
THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU!!
NO... STOP IT, YOU CAN'T!!

.....
MISAKI...
YOU'RE ACTING REALLY STRANGE!
WHA... WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU KUROE?!
.....
KURO...
KUROE?
WHA... WHAT IS IT?
!!

HWE?!
.....
.....
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!
YOU'RE SUCH A DORK!!
.....

The Next Day...
.....
JUST WHAT IS KUROE DOING..?
I WONDER IF HE'S FOLLOWING ME AROUND BECAUSE HE'S WORRIED ABOUT ME
ANYWAYS IF HE'S TRYING TO SECRETLY FOLLOW ME HE'S DOING A TERRIBLE JOB...
PEEK

ISN'T THIS..!
THE TRAIN STATION CLOSEST TO THE SPOT WHERE THE CORPSE WAS FOUND..?
IT CAN'T BE..! COULD IT REALLY HAVE BEEN MISAKI'S DOING?!
WHAT AM I THINKING..?!
SHE WOULD NEVER DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT!!

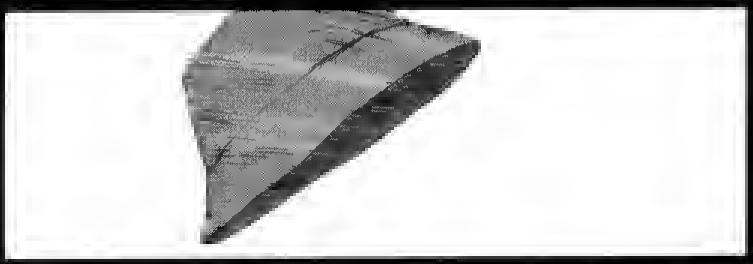
DO YOU REALLY THINK YOU KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT HER?
TURN
I KNOW MISAKI...
THAT'S WHY I KNOW IT CAN'T BE HER...
MISAKI...
AH..!
GASP!

SHIT..!

WOW, I LOST HIM SO EASILY...

.....

I NEVER KNEW IT WOULD BE THIS EASY TO LOSE A PROFESSIONAL P.I. THAT WAS TAILING ME...



!!
A VAMPIRE..!!
THERE, I KNEW IT..!
MISAKI WASN'T BEHIND THIS AFTER ALL~!

CLOMP
CLOMP
HEY
I NEVER IMAGINED YOU WOULD BE CATCHING OUR CULPRIT FOR US

WEREN'T YOU MUCH BETTER WHEN YOU WERE "OVER THERE"?
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU TO HAVE THIS MUCH TROUBLE HANDLING A VAMPIRE OF HIS LEVEL..
!!
WHAT'S WRONG? YOU HAVE A CUT ON YOUR FACE...
ARE YOU SURPRISED THAT I KNOW SO MUCH ABOUT YOU?
.....
SO IT SHOULDN'T BE TOO MUCH OF A SURPRISE THAT I KNOW ABOUT THE PAST OF A PERSON LIKE YOURSELF RIGHT?
I MAY NOT LOOK LIKE IT, BUT I'VE BEEN A VAMPIRE A VERY LONG TIME

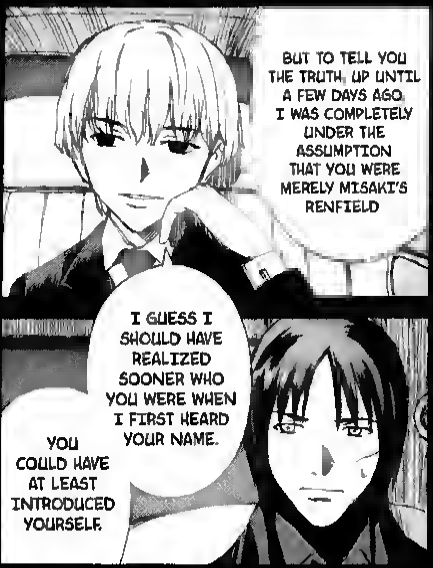
SLICE
FLICK
!!

.....
IT LOOKS LIKE HE WAS STILL ABLE TO MOVE...
YOU'RE VERY SKILLED.
THERE AREN'T TOO MANY HUMANS THAT CAN DEFEAT A VAMPIRE WITH THEIR BARE HANDS.
WHAT'S WRONG... ARE YOU NERVOUS?
IT'S NOT LIKE I'M THE FIRST ELDER GENERATION VAMPIRE YOU'VE SEEN RIGHT?

YOU USED MISAKI AS BAIT AND USED ME ONCE THE REAL CULPRIT SHOWED HIMSELF?
I SEE... SO HAVING KNOWN ABOUT MY ABILITIES

SO I STILL LIKE TO KEEP TRACK OF WHAT GOES ON OVER THERE.
I WAS ACTUALLY BORN IN EUROPE.

HOW DID YOU FIND OUT ABOUT ME..?


BUT TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, UP UNTIL A FEW DAYS AGO, I WAS COMPLETELY UNDER THE ASSUMPTION THAT YOU WERE MERELY MISAKI'S RENFIELD
I GUESS I SHOULD HAVE REALIZED SOONER WHO YOU WERE WHEN I FIRST HEARD YOUR NAME.
YOU COULD HAVE AT LEAST INTRODUCED YOURSELF.

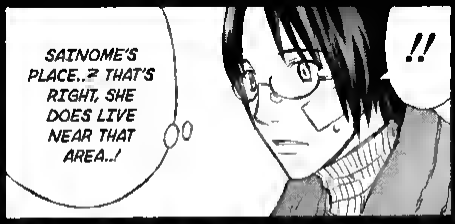
IF WE VAMPIRES HAD BEEN OUT LOOKING FOR HIM HE WOULD'VE NEVER SHOWN HIMSELF YOU REALLY DID SAVE US QUITE A BIT OF TROUBLE
EXACTLY... IS WHAT I'D LIKE TO SAY BUT IT'S JUST HOW THINGS TURNED OUT

SORRY, BUT I HAVE A HABIT OF BEING CAUTIOUS...
AFTER ALL, THERE ARE QUITE A FEW VAMPIRES OUT THERE THAT WOULD PREFER TO HAVE ME DEAD THAN ALIVE.
SO WHAT DO YOU PLAN ON DOING WITH ME..?
NOTHING REALLY.
IT WOULD BE A DIFFERENT STORY IF YOU LAID A HAND ON ANYONE IN MY BLOOD CLAN
BUT I COULD CARE LESS HOW MANY YOU KILLED BACK IN EUROPE, AS LONG AS THEY DON'T HAVE ANY TIES TO ME.
THEN THAT VAMPIRE?
HE'S PROBABLY A VAMPIRE THAT DOESN'T KNOW WHO HIS MASTER IS. HE'S JUST AN ORPHAN, DON'T CONCERN YOURSELF OVER IT.

I'M SURE SOMEONE LIKE YOU, WHO DEALS QUITE OFTEN WITH VAMPIRES, HAS AT LEAST HEARD OF THE WORD
WE BECOME VAMPIRES BY HAVING A VAMPIRE DRINK OUR BLOOD THEN DRINKING THAT VAMPIRE'S BLOOD IN TURN
STRARUDA ...
SOMEWHERE ALONG THE LINE, WHEN A VAMPIRE DRINKS THE BLOOD WITH AN OVERWHELMINGLY POWERFUL STRARUDA, HE LOSES HIS OWN WILL AND BECOMES A HALF-CRAZED VAMPIRE, LIKE THE ONE YOU SAW EARLIER
BUT FOR THE YOUNGER GENERATION OF VAMPIRES, BECAUSE OF THEIR THINNER BLOOD LINES, THERE'S A STRONG TENDENCY TO REVERT TO THE PRIMAL NATURE OF VAMPIRES.
FOR ELDER GENERATION VAMPIRES LIKE MYSELF, INTRODUCING NEW STRARUDA INTO OUR BODIES WOULD DO LITTLE MORE THAN CHANGE OUR PERSONALITY A BIT.
THE STRARUDA THAT FLOWS IN THE BLOOD OF VAMPIRES IS WHAT MAKES US VAMPIRES. EACH STRARUDA CARRIES WITH IT ITS OWN WILL AND SPECIAL POWERS
AND END UP LIKE THAT VAMPIRE
EVENTUALLY THEY LOSE ALL THEIR MEMORIES AND THE PERSONALITY THEY HAD AS A HUMAN...
THE MORE A STRARUDA LIVES THROUGH LIFE THREATENING INJURIES THE MORE IT'LL WANT TO DRINK BLOOD AND THROUGH THIS PROCESS THEY BECOME STRONGER

DO ALL VAMPIRES... EVENTUALLY BECOME LIKE THAT..?
IN THE END, IF A VAMPIRE'S FATE IS TO TURN INTO A MINDLESS MONSTER, LIVING FOREVER BECOMES MEANINGLESS.
THE SAYING THAT VAMPIRES ARE IMMORTAL IS NOTHING MORE THAN AN ILLUSION.
MORE THAN YOU THINK...
AFTER FUSING WITH MY STRARUDA, I'VE BECOME SOMETHING DIFFERENT ALTOGETHER...
EVEN I'M NO LONGER WHAT I USED TO BE WHEN I WAS HUMAN.

KUROE!!
THEN IF THAT'S THE CASE...
WHERE HAS MISAKI BEEN SNEAKING OFF TO LATELY..?
HEH HEH—
TADAA~!!
!!

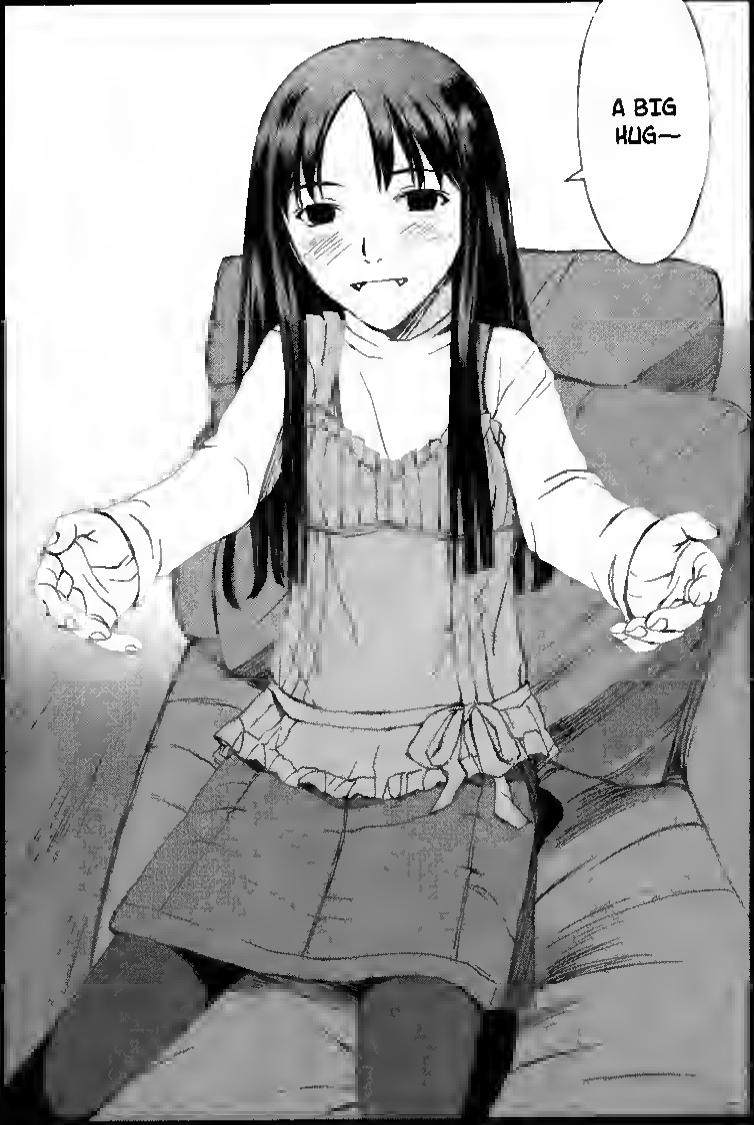

!!
SAINOME'S PLACE..? THAT'S RIGHT, SHE DOES LIVE NEAR THAT AREA..!

I'VE BEEN LEARNING HOW TO KNIT THESE PAST COUPLE OF DAYS AT SAINOME'S PLACE.
HU HU HU.

WHA... WHY ARE YOU MAKING SUCH A STRANGE FACE?
I ADMIT IT'S MY FIRST ATTEMPT, BUT IT TURNED OUT PRETTY WELL FOR MY FIRST TIME—

THAT'S NOT TRUE AT ALL IT'S REALLY WELL MADE—
EH..? BUT IT'S NOTHING SO GREAT THAT YOU HAVE TO GET ME SOMETHING IN RETURN
YOU THINK SO..?
HMM—
THEN HOW ABOUT...

OH, IT'S NOT THAT... THANKS FOR THE SCARF.
I'M REALLY HAPPY TO RECEIVE THIS.
NOW IT'S ONLY FAIR THAT I GIVE YOU SOMETHING IN RETURN.


A BIG HUG—

ing MANGA

BLOOD ALONE

#Manga-Sketchbook@IrcHighway
http://www.manga-sketchbook.org/

Episode 10

SWEET MUSIC

心ふるわせる音楽 – Music That Soothes the Soul

EH?
IT'S THAT MUSIC PRODUCER... MR NISHIZAWA
HEY...
LOOK OVER THERE.
GOODNESS, I DIDN'T EVEN NOTICE HIM OVER THERE...
HE SURE HAS FALLEN.
JUST A FEW YEARS BACK, HE USED TO BE THE HOTTEST SELLING PRODUCER AROUND.
BUT EVER SINCE HE STOPPED COMING UP WITH HIT SONGS, HE'S PRETTY MUCH FALLEN TO THE BOTTOM.
AS YOU CAN SEE... NOBODY WANTS TO HANG OUT WITH A FAILURE LIKE ME.
YO, WHAT'S WRONG NISHI?
HEY.
YOU JUST GONNA SIT AROUND IN THIS CORNER WITH THAT GLOOMY LOOK ON YOUR FACE?
AREN'T YOU BEING A BIT HARD ON YOURSELF?
SERIOUSLY MAN, WHAT'S WRONG?
YOU'D BETTER WATCH YOURSELF AS WELL... IF YOU CONTINUE TO TALK TO ME, EVEN YOUR LUCK MIGHT RUN OUT.

NOT ONLY THAT, I CAN'T EVEN WRITE A SONG GOOD ENOUGH TO SAVE MY CONTRACT FROM BEING VOIDED.
AND THE WORST PART IS HOW MY WIFE RAN OFF ON ME WITH THE KID.
BUT I DON'T BLAME THEM, REALLY.. NOBODY WANTS TO STAY ON A SINKING SHIP.
IT CAN'T BE HELPED... ALL MY TALENTED STAFF QUIT ON ME
AND MY MANAGER THAT I TRUSTED SO MUCH SKIPPED TOWN WITH ALL MY MONEY
MAYBE THIS IS THE TRUE LEVEL OF MY TALENT...
I DON'T KNOW...
WHAT? THEN THIS IS ALL ABOUT A SLUMP YOU'RE HAVING..?
WHAT'S THIS? SOMEONE'S PHONE NUMBER?
WELL YOU'RE IN LUCK, I'VE GOT JUST THE THING FOR YOU...
YOU REALLY ARE HURTING AREN'T YOU—

.....!
IT'S THE NUMBER OF SOMEONE WHO CAN SELL YOU MAGICAL POTIONS
POTIONS THAT'LL HELP YOU WRITE HIT SONGS NON-STOP
HEY... ARE YOU TELLING ME TO USE D..?!
WHOA, HOLD UP MAN— THERE'S NO NEED TO SHOUT—
A LOT MORE PEOPLE THAN YOU THINK ARE USING THIS STUFF
THERE'S NO REASON TO TRIP MAN.
YOU HAVE 2 NEW MESSAGES ...
HELLO, IT'S ME YAMAKAWA. I LISTENED TO YOUR DEMO TODAY.
UMM... UNFORTUNATELY, IT'S STILL NOT QUITE THERE YET.

DAMN IT.
FLOP
I'M SORRY BUT I'LL HAVE TO ASK THAT YOU REDO IT.
PAPA..?
IT'S ME, YUKA.
PLEASE GIVE ME A CALL BACK TOMORROW.
SO, UMM...
MAMA SAID SHE'S GOING TO BE BUSY THIS MONTH TOO...
I'M SORRY I COULDN'T SEE YOU LAST TIME.
I'LL CALL YOU AGAIN PAPA...

.....
♪
♫
DAMN../
DAMN//

WHAT'S THERE TO THINK ABOUT MAN?
ALL THE BIG ARTISTS ARE USING THIS STUFF NOW.
ALL IT DOES IS HELP BRING OUT YOUR TRUE POTENTIAL.
WHAT'S SO WRONG WITH THAT?
HAAA
HAAA
HAAA

THIS SOUND... IS SOMEONE PLAYING A PIANO?
♪
♪
♪
♪
.....
I WONDER WHERE IT'S COMING FROM...
♪
♪

♪
MORNING.
GOOD MORNING.
♪
THAT'S A CATCHY TUNE.
IT'S A SONG THAT I WROTE.
WHAT'S IT CALLED?
I CALL IT, "GOOD MORNING KUROE."
IF I HAD A CHOICE THOUGH, I'D PREFERRED YOU WAKE ME WITH A QUIETER SONG.
...MAKES SENSE.
YAWN
I DO FEEL RATHER AWAKE NOW
BUT IF I PLAYED ANYTHING SOFTER, YOU WOULD NEVER WAKE UP—
♪♪

IT'S A SONG I'VE NEVER HEARD BEFORE.
TAP TAP
WHO COULD'VE WRITTEN SOMETHING LIKE THIS..?
THIS SONG...
IF I USED IT, I KNOW IT'LL DO WELL...
BUT...

THIS IS A SONG I MYSTERIOUSLY HEARD IN MY HEAD...
IT'S LIKE A GIFT FROM ABOVE.
THAT'S RIGHT..!
I'VE ALREADY WRITTEN HUNDREDS OF SONGS...
NO, WAIT..!
WHO CARES IF I HAPPEN TO COME UP WITH JUST ONE SONG THIS WAY...

♫
♫
♫
♫
!!
.....!!
TURN
HO...
HOLD ON A
MINUTE
MISS!!

?
THA... THAT SONG..!
I SEE...
SO YOU'RE THE ONE WHO WROTE THAT SONG...
IT'S SOMETHING I CAME UP WITH WHILE I WAS FOOLING AROUND ON MY PIANO. SO IT'S NOTHING SPECIAL
NO. IT'S A VERY GOOD SONG... REALLY
AND YOU'RE ALSO VERY GOOD AT PLAYING THE PIANO.
THANK YOU! DO YOU PLAY THE PIANO AS WELL MISTER?
YEAH... YOU COULD SAY THAT...

WOW—! THEN YOU MUST BE A PROFESSIONAL MUSICIAN!
ACTUALLY, I'M NOT ALL THAT GREAT...
DOES THAT MEAN..
THE TRUTH IS, I MAKE A LIVING OFF OF PLAYING THE PIANO
I SEE... THEN YOUR DAD MUST HAVE BEEN VERY TALENTED AS WELL..
MY FATHER WAS INTO MUSIC SO I LEARNED FROM HIM..
YES
SO DID SOMEONE TEACH YOU HOW TO PLAY THE PIANO?
....!!
I... I'M SORRY...
NOW, HE'S UP THERE SOMEWHERE IN THE SKY WITH ALL THE STARS
THAT'S ALL IN THE PAST THOUGH..

THAT REASON?
AFTER ALL, I WANTED TO LEARN BECAUSE OF "THAT" REASON, ALTHOUGH I'M KIND OF ASHAMED OF IT NOW.
SO DID SOMEONE TEACH YOU HOW TO PLAY AS WELL MISTER...?
IT'S OK...
NO. I'M PRETTY MUCH SELF TAUGHT...
BUT DID IT MAKE YOU AT LEAST A LITTLE BIT MORE POPULAR...?
NOPE, NOT AT ALL.
IT IS A RATHER STRAIGHT FORWARD REASON—
I WANTED TO BE POPULAR WITH THE GIRLS...
IN THE END THOUGH, IT STILL DIDN'T MAKE ME VERY POPULAR WITH THE GIRLS.
BUT THE TRUTH IS, I DIDN'T DECIDE TO BECOME A PROFESSIONAL MUSICIAN UNTIL I HEARD HIS SONGS...
IT'S WHAT I DESERVED FOR TRYING TO LEARN FOR A STUPID REASON LIKE THAT...

WHEN I WAS YOUNG, I WAS ABLE TO SEE ONE OF HIS LIVE PERFORMANCES JUST ONCE
ONLY A FEW YEARS AFTER HIS DEBUT, HE WAS ALREADY WORLD FAMOUS.
BUT ONLY AFTER LEAVING 3 SINGLES AND 2 ALBUMS, THAT WORLD FAMOUS JAPANESE MUSICIAN DISAPPEARED.
EVER SINCE THEN I'VE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO GET SO DRAWN INTO SOMETHING AS I DID AT THAT PERFORMANCE

BEFORE I KNEW IT, I WAS WRITING DISPOSABLE SONGS THAT PEOPLE WOULD FORGET ONLY AFTER A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME.
AT LEAST THAT'S HOW I STARTED OUT...
ALL I WANTED TO DO WAS BE ABLE TO DRAW PEOPLE IN WITH MUSIC LIKE HE DID...
MY...
.....
MY FATHER USED TO WORRY ABOUT THE SAME THINGS...

I THINK TO MYSELF, ISN'T IT BECAUSE I WROTE THAT SONG FOR THE PERSON I LOVE THE MOST?
.....
AND IF THAT PERSON LIKES THE SONG I WROTE FOR HIM...
THAT'S WHY WHEN I'M TRYING TO COME UP WITH A SONG, I ALSO THINK OF JUST ONE PERSON
THE PERSON HE WANTED TO PLAY HIS SONGS FOR THE MOST...
HE SAID DURING TIMES LIKE THAT, HE WOULD WRITE SONGS FOR JUST ONE PERSON...
AH...!
I... I THINK I UNDERSTAND
NO. NOT AT ALL... WHAT YOU SAID WAS VERY HELPFUL.
WHA... WHAT WAS I THINKING TELLING A PROFESSIONAL HOW TO COME UP WITH SONGS?!
I... I'M SORRY!

SORRY FOR SUDDENLY STOPPING YOU AND MAKING YOU LISTEN TO A BORING OLD MAN'S STORY.
.....
SEE YOU AROUND
NO, IT WASN'T BORING AT ALL...
OH, THAT'S RIGHT...
IF IT'S OK WITH YOU, CAN YOU TELL ME YOUR DAD'S NAME?

MINATO...
REIJI..
REIJI MINATO.
!!
YOU MEAN REIJI..?! REIJI MINATO?!
THEN YOU'RE..?!
TURN
IT CAN'T BE.. CAN IT?

YOU HAVE 1 NEW MESSAGE.
HELLO, IT'S ME AGAIN, MR YAMAKAWA I LISTENED TO THE NEW SONG YOU SENT ME AND...
IT'S A FANTASTIC SONG../
HONESTLY, I WAS SHOCKED WHEN I FIRST HEARD IT~
PLEASE MAKE SURE TO CALL ME BACK LATER
GOODBYE
HI, IT'S ME NISHIZAWA
IT'S ABOUT THE SONG I SENT YOU THE OTHER DAY SIR...
I'VE DECIDED I WANTED TO GO WITH SOMETHING DIFFERENT
YES -. THIS NEW ONE HAS MORE ESSENCE SO...
NO

THIS NEW ONE IS MUCH BETTER SO
THERE'S NO NEED FOR THAT SONG ANYMORE
♪
♪
MMM ?
♪
GOOD MORNING KUROE.
♪♪
GOOD MORNING

I'VE ALREADY MADE SOME COFFEE.
ALRIGHT, THANKS
♪
YOU DIDN'T PLAY THE PIANO THIS MORNING
YES, I THOUGHT I'D PLAY A NEW CD I BOUGHT INSTEAD
WHY? DID YOU PREFER I WAKE YOU WITH MY PIANO INSTEAD?
NO, NO. WAKING TO THE SOUND OF THIS SONG ISN'T BAD EITHER.
♫
AND HERE I THOUGHT YOU MISSED MY PIANO ALREADY~

IT'S A NICE SONG
ISN'T IT?
HOW CAN I SAY IT...
NOT ONLY IS IT VERY SOOTHING, YOU CAN ALSO FEEL A FIERY SPIRIT WITHIN THE MUSIC
WAKING UP TO THIS IS A GREAT WAY TO START THE DA
That's right~
GIGGLE
YOU SOUND LIKE A PHILOSOPHER NOW.
BUT...

I FULLY AGREE WITH YOU...
PAPA~!

ing MANGA

BLOOD ALONE

#Manga-Sketchbook@IrcHighway
http://www.manga-sketchbook.org/

Episode 11

VALENTINE NIGHT

チョコレート失踪事件 – The Missing Chocolate Incident

THEY'RE FINALLY DONE!!
SO WHO ARE YOU GOING TO GIVE YOUR VALENTINE'S DAY CHOCOLATE TO SAINOME?
THOSE LOOK REALLY GOOD FOR BEING HOMEMADE.
THEN YOU AREN'T GIVING ANY CHOCOLATE TO SOMEONE YOU HAVE AN EYE ON?
HMM, PROBABLY JUST TO A RANDOM CO-WORKER ...
WELL, NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT...

I... I DON'T MIND IF YOU DO, BUT YOU SHOULD KNOW. KUROE ALWAYS GETS A LOT OF VALENTINE'S CHOCOLATE, SO YOU'LL HAVE LOTS OF RIVALS.
PERHAPS I SHOULD GIVE MY CHOCOLATE TO KUROE~
!!
BUT YOU'RE STILL GOING TO BE GIVING HIM ONE RIGHT~?
NOW YOU'RE MAKING IT SOUND AS IF YOU'RE GIVING IT TO YOUR FATHER OR SOMETHING~
CHUCKLE
CHUCKLE
W.. WELL THAT'S ONLY BECAUSE KUROE IS ALWAYS TAKING CARE OF ME...
IT WOULD BE WEIRD IF I DIDN'T GIVE HIM ONE
OH REALLY~? WHY IS THAT~?
.....
IT... IT'S NOT LIKE THAT...

Note : Saimone is referring to White Day where men give women chocolate

IS... IS THAT SO..
HE NEVER REALLY DID PAY ANY ATTENTION TO HOLIDAYS LIKE
WELL... IT'S NOT LIKE I CAN EXPECT ANYTHING MUCH IN RETURN FROM KUROE, SO I THINK I'LL PASS ON GIVING HIM CHOCOLATE.
HAPPY VALENTINE'S

OH, YOU DON'T HAVE TO PRETEND WITH ME~
THANKS, NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, TODAY IS VALENTINE'S DAY ISN'T IT?
!!
I ALREADY KNOW THAT PAPER BAG NEXT TO YOU IS FULL OF VALENTINE'S DAY CHOCOLATE
UUU...
WOW— YOU ENDED UP GETTING QUITE A LOT!
TH... THEY'RE JUST FROM WORK RELATED PEOPLE AND SOME OF MY READERS...
NOW THERE'S NOTHING TO BE SO EMBARRASSED ABOUT—

.....
OH..!
SORRY. I NEED TO TAKE THIS CALL
...YES, I UNDERSTAND.
OK THEN. I'LL TALK TO YOU LATER

I'M SORRY, BUT AFTER WE'RE DONE HERE, THERE'S ANOTHER MEETING I HAVE TO ATTEND...
MISAKI...
OH PERFECT TIMING.
I ACTUALLY JUST REMEMBERED I NEEDED TO DO SOMETHING SO I'LL BE HEADING HOME FIRST~
I WONDER WHERE SHE'S OFF TO IN SUCH A HURRY...

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
THIS IS THE MATERIAL YOU ASKED FOR BEFORE.
THIS IS ALSO FOR YOU
AND...
THANK YOU, REALLY
NO, NOT AT ALL.
I HOPE I'M NOT TROUBLING YOU BY GIVING YOU THIS...
CHOCOLATE
SO! YOU ALWAYS RECEIVE SO MUCH CHOCOLATE EVERY YEAR. I'M SURE YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH
.....?!

.....
I WAS PRETTY SURE I LEFT HERS ON TOP...
?
THAT'S STRANGE...
WHAT THE..?!
IS SOMETHING THE MATTER?
ONLY MISAKI'S IS MISSING?!
OUT OF ALL THE CHOCOLATE I RECEIVED TODAY...
THIS CAN'T BE!

I'M SORRY SIR BUT WE DIDN'T SEE OR FIND ANYTHING LIKE THAT HERE.
HAAA
HAAA
CLOMP
CLOMP
I UNDERSTAND, THANK YOU...
I CHECKED EVERYWHERE I STOPPED BY TODAY AND I STILL COULDN'T FIND IT...
I CAN'T THINK OF ANY OTHER PLACES I MIGHT HAVE DROPPED IT...
WHAT SHOULD I DO NOW? SHOULD I BE HONEST AND TELL HER STRAIGHT OUT I LOST HERS?

HONESTLY— I WENT THROUGH THE TROUBLE OF MAKING IT FROM SCRATCH AND YOU END UP LOSING JUST MINE?
I'M SORRY...
YOU LOST IT?
EH?!
I'M SO SORRY...
IT'S OK, I'LL MAKE YOU ANOTHER ONE.
I CAN'T DO THAT TO HER. SHE'LL CRY!
BUT SERIOUSLY THIS IS BAD—! HOW COULD I LOSE JUST HERS?!
SLUMP
SIGH—
IT'S OK, REALLY— DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
...Is what she said, but she's actually on the verge of breaking into tears.

I DON'T EXACTLY HAVE A SWEET TOOTH BUT I GUESS EVEN SWEET THINGS CAN BE GOOD AT TIMES...
WOW, IT WAS REALLY GOOD~
THAT'S IT!! I'LL TELL HER I ATE IT ALREADY...
THA...
WHAT?!
I WAS SURE I HAD USED BITTER CHOCOLATE SINCE I KNEW YOU DIDN'T LIKE OVERLY SWEET THINGS.
HUH..? WAS IT REALLY THAT SWEET?
I GUESS I SHOULD JUST BE HONEST AND APOLOGIZE...
.....
GLOOM
NO... IT'S NOT GOING TO WORK...
SHE'LL KNOW I'M LYING RIGHT AWAY.

.....
WELCOME BACK.
I'M HOME...
WHAT'S WRONG? WHY THE LONG FACE?
RUSH
THAT'S RIGHT~!
!
ABOUT THE CHOCOLATE YOU GAVE ME TODAY MISAKI.
UM...

HERE
HAPPY VALENTINE'S~
YOU KNOW HOW YOU GOT A LOT OF CHOCOLATE TODAY..?
EH HE HE HE
HUH..?
.....?!
BUT HOW..?!
SO I TOOK MINE BACK HOME AND CHANGED THE RIBBON.
WELL.. I NOTICED ONE OF THEM HAD THE SAME RIBBON AS THE ONE I GAVE YOU--

PHEW~
SO THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED...
SO I THOUGHT IT WOULDN'T BE AS SPECIAL IF IT LOOKED THE SAME AS ANOTHER ONE.
W.. WELL I MADE YOUR CHOCOLATE FROM SCRATCH
THE SAME RIBBON..?
.....
I, UM... IT... IT'S KIND OF EMBARRASSING IF YOU OPEN IT IN FRONT OF ME SO...
WAIT~!
?
AH../
THANK YOU, I THINK I'LL TRY SOME RIGHT NOW...

To Kuroe
Thank you for always taking care of me.
Misaki
.....

ing MANGA

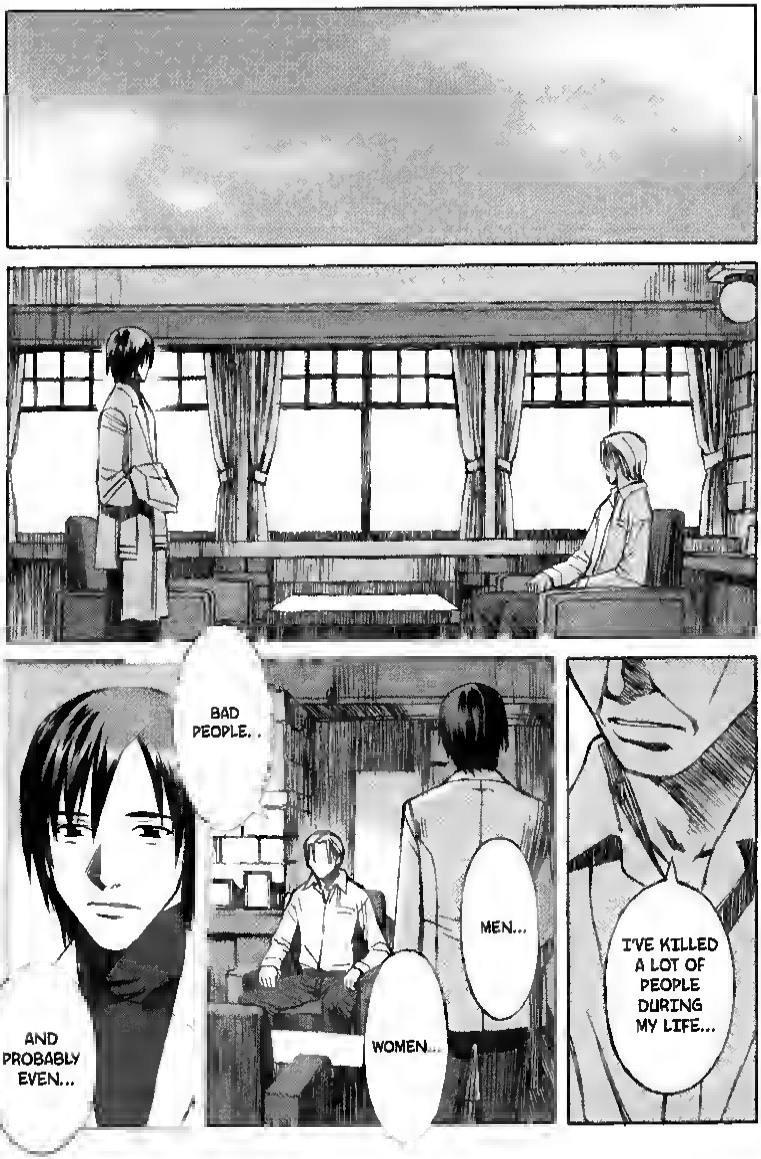
BLOOD ALONE

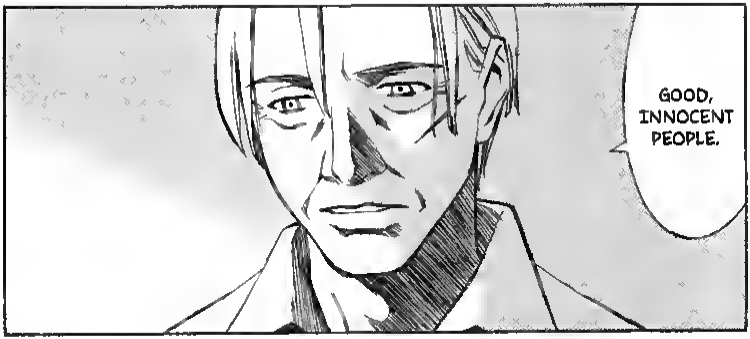
#Manga-Sketchbook@IrcHighway
http://www.manga-sketchbook.org/

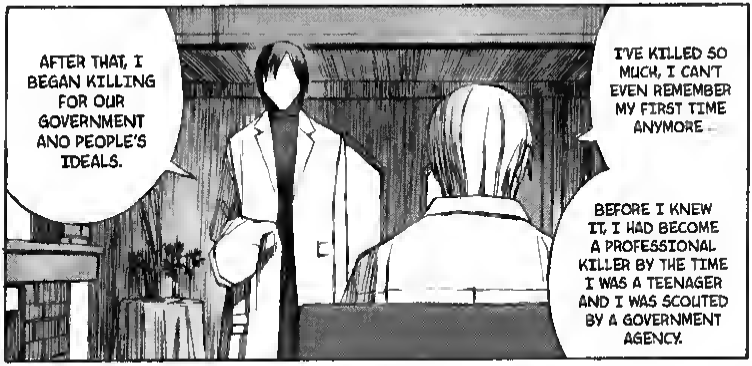
Episode 12

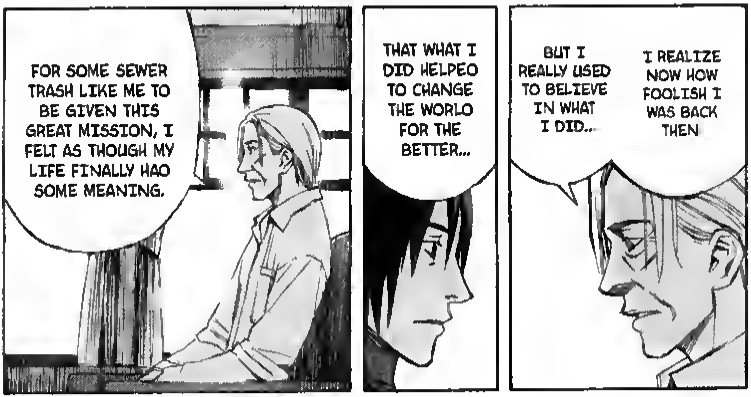
WHY CRY? part 1

真紅の剣 – The Crimson Sword


I'VE KILLED A LOT OF PEOPLE DURING MY LIFE...
MEN...
WOMEN...
BAD PEOPLE..
AND PROBABLY EVEN...


GOOD, INNOCENT PEOPLE.


AFTER THAT, I BEGAN KILLING FOR OUR GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE'S IDEALS.
I'VE KILLED SO MUCH, I CAN'T EVEN REMEMBER MY FIRST TIME ANYMORE...
BEFORE I KNEW IT, I HAD BECOME A PROFESSIONAL KILLER BY THE TIME I WAS A TEENAGER AND I WAS SCOUTED BY A GOVERNMENT AGENCY.


FOR SOME SEWER TRASH LIKE ME TO BE GIVEN THIS GREAT MISSION, I FELT AS THOUGH MY LIFE FINALLY HAD SOME MEANING.
THAT WHAT I DID HELPED TO CHANGE THE WORLD FOR THE BETTER...
BUT I REALLY USED TO BELIEVE IN WHAT I DID...
I REALIZE NOW HOW FOOLISH I WAS BACK THEN

I'LL PASS ON THIS ONE.
I NEVER EVEN IMAGINED I'D BE ASKED TO PROTECT AN ASSASSIN.
DON'T FORGET HE USED TO BE AN ASSASSIN... HE'S NOT ANYMORE.
NOW, THE PEOPLE HE USED TO WORK FOR ARE OUT TO GET HIM.
IT'S ALL THE SAME TO ME
ARE YOU SO SURE?
I'M WILLING TO BET YOU'LL ACCEPT THIS JOB MONSIEUR KUROE...
I WON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THIS.
?
ONCE YOU HEAR THE NAME OF WHO'S INVOLVED...

YES...
BUT YOU SEEM TO KNOW QUITE A LOT ABOUT THEM ALREADY, DON'T YOU MISTER KUROE?
I'M SURE THAT'S WHAT THEY CALL THEMSELVES
EINSEIGRAD SPARUDA...

Note Einseigrad Sparuda = The Crimson Sword

THERE ARE PLENTY OF REASONS WHY PEOPLE WOULD WANT ME DEAD.
WOULD YOU HAVE ANY IDEAS AS TO WHY ?
AND TO THINK THAT THEY'RE THE ONES WHO ARE AFTER ME...
I'VE HEARD RUMORS ABOUT THEM
BUT I NEVER IMAGINED THEY REALLY EXISTED...
EVEN THOUGH NO ONE KNOWS BETTER THAN MYSELF
THAT DOING SOMETHING LIKE THAT COULD NEVER BE FORGIVEN...
FOOLISHLY ENOUGH, THERE ARE SOME PEOPLE OUT THERE THAT ACTUALLY BELIEVE I MIGHT REVEAL SOME OF THOSE SECRETS.
IF I EVER CONFESSED ANY OF THE THINGS I KNEW, IT WOULD CAUSE A LOT OF PEOPLE TROUBLE...
I'M NOT TRYING TO SAY SOMEONE LIKE ME, WHO'S TAKEN SO MANY LIVES, DESERVES TO LIVE...
IT MAY SOUND SELFISH, BUT... I STILL HAVE SOMETHING I HAVE TO DO BEFORE I DIE...

IT'S JUST THIS JOB MAY TAKE SOME TIME SO I WANT YOU TO CALL SAINOME IF THERE'S ANYTHING YOU NEED, OK?
I'LL BE FINE.
YOU'RE TAKING ANOTHER DANGEROUS JOB AREN'T YOU?
OK...
I PROMISE TO CALL EVERY NIGHT
SORRY
SHE WOULDN'T LISTEN WHEN I TOLD HER SHE COULDN'T COME.
ALRIGHT THEN, I STILL NEED TO TALK OVER A FEW THINGS WITH SLY SO...
.....
I'M SURE SHE'LL FEEL A BIT MORE RELIEVED NOW— NOW THAT SHE'S SEEN ME
NO, IT'S ALRIGHT.
IN ANY CASE, IS THERE ANY MORE INFORMATION YOU HAD FOR ME?

BUT SLY...
BUT ARE YOU BEING SO HELPFUL ON THIS CASE?
AREN'T THEY VAMPIRES JUST LIKE YOU?
I WAS HOPING TO GET THE JUMP ON THEM WHILE THE SUN WAS STILL UP, BUT I GUESS IT'S TOO LATE FOR THAT NOW...
I SEE...
I WAS TRAILING THEM UP UNTIL THEY ENTERED THE COUNTRY
BUT THAT'S WHEN I LOST THEM
IT SEEMS YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND ...
IT'S BECAUSE WE'RE ALL MONSTERS..
BECAUSE I'VE BECOME A MONSTER
THAT THERE ARE STILL SOME THINGS FROM MY REMAINING HUMANITY I DON'T WANT TO LOSE...
?
IN OTHER WORDS
WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY IS...
JUST LIKE YOU MONSIEUR ...
I HATE THEM AS MUCH AS YOU DO.

I DON'T THINK I'LL BE ABLE TO SLEEP AT NIGHT ALL ALONE—
A DANGEROUS JOB KUROE—?
FUME
IT'S ALREADY BEEN A WHILE SINCE MONSIEUR KUROE LEFT, SO WHY DON'T WE LEAVE AS WELL?
HOW LONG DO YOU PLAN ON STANDING THERE LIKE THAT?
.....
MADE-MOISELLE
I CAN TAKE MYSELF HOME.
I'M FINE!
I'LL WALK YOU HOME MADE-MOISELLE
WHOA—
WELL, I'M SURE SHE'LL BE FINE.
.....
MADE-MOISELLE!
STOMP
STOMP

MISTER KUROE..?
.....
CLICK

TURN
?!

SLIDE
WHAT..?!
STAGGER
MARI...A..?
MARIA..?!
THIS CAN'T
BE..!!
TWITCH

CLANG
CLANG
WOOSH

WHERE'S YOUR BLOOD PARENT?
?!
SLAM
STOP IT...
I DON'T WANT TO HURT YOU IF POSSIBLE.
CLICK
HO...
HOLD ON A MINUTE..!!
?!

SWING
!!
CLK
MARIA..!!
I DON'T UNDERSTAND
HOW COULD THIS BE..?
SMATTER

SIGH...
PLEASE BE CAREFUL KUROE...
I DIDN'T THINK HE'D BE TAKING THESE DANGEROUS JOBS AGAIN
LIKE HE USED TO WHEN HE WAS "OVER THERE"...
RUSTLE

!!
STEP
HUH..?
Ahh..!
ARE YOU ALRIGHT?/
DASH
ARE...
THIS GIRL.. SHE'S A..!!

MARIA..?!
I DON'T UNDERSTAND... HOW COULD THIS BE..?
HOW IS IT THAT YOU KNOW MY NAME?
AND WHY DID YOU CALL OUT MY NAME IN THAT MANNER..?
MARIA.
FATHER...

.....
YOU'RE FINALLY AWAKE
THANK GOODNESS

.....
IT SEEMED LIKE YOU WERE INJURED WHEN I FOUND YOU BUT YOUR BLOOD HEALED YOUR BODY, AND SO YOU FELL CONSCIOUSNESS DURING THAT TIME.
OH, UM...
I SEE.
.....
I CAN TELL... BECAUSE I'M A VAMPIRE...
YOU'RE... A RENFIELD RIGHT..?
ANYWAYS, YOUR CLOTHES GOT DIRTY WHEN YOU FELL UNCONSCIOUS ON THE STREET SO I BROUGHT YOU A CHANGE OF CLOTHES...

ARE YOU HERE ALL BY YOURSELF?
YES, FOR NOW...
I LIVE HERE TOGETHER WITH SOMEONE NAMED KUROE, BUT HE'S OUT WORKING RIGHT NOW
AND YOU?
I LIVE WITH MY FATHER
WE SHOULD PROBABLY CALL YOUR FATHER RIGHT?
IF THAT'S THE CASE...
THERE'S NO NEED
WHEN SHE SAID "FATHER" DID SHE MEAN HER BLOOD PARENT? I WONDER IF HE'S LIKE HIGURE...
UM...
B... BUT DON'T YOU THINK HE'D BE WORRIED ABOUT YOU?
THERE'S NO NEED FOR HIM TO BE WORRIED

BECAUSE HE'S ALREADY HERE.
EH?
.....?!

ing MANGA

BLOOD ALONE

#Manga-Sketchbook@IrcHighway
http://www.manga-sketchbook.org/

Episode 13

WHY CRY? part 2

SHIVER
KUROE...!

WHO IS SHE?
SHE LIVES HERE
SHE SAID SHE WAS A VAMPIRE
OH REALLY..?
.....!!

BUT IF SHE'S THE REAL THING THIS IS A RATHER AMAZING FIND.
I CAN'T BE CERTAIN OF IT...
!!!
INTERESTING...
I'M CERTAIN THAT WAS MARIA.
THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT...
I TRAVELED THE ENTIRE WORLD LOOKING FOR CLUES AS TO HER WHEREABOUTS
AND I WAS NEARLY READY TO GIVE UP...
YOU WERE LOOKING FOR HER..?
I'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR HER EVERYWHERE...
SOME TIME AGO SOMEONE KIDNAPPED HER AND SHE HAD BEEN MISSING EVER SINCE
SHE'S MY ONE AND ONLY DAUGHTER... AND THE ONLY FAMILY I HAVE LEFT...
!!

SHE WAS BORN WITH AN ILLNESS AND THE DOCTORS HAD TOLD ME SHE WOULDN'T MAKE IT TO ADULTHOOD...
....!!
BUT NOW SHE REAPPEARS, AND LOOKS EXACTLY THE SAME AS SHE DID WHEN I LAST SAW HER...
I NEVER IMAGINED SHE WOULD SUDDENLY REAPPEAR IN FRONT OF ME HOLDING A GUN POINTED AT ME...
AND THAT BLANK LOOK ON HER FACE, SHE ACTED LIKE SHE DIDN'T EVEN KNOW ME...
HOW... HOW COULD THIS BE..?!
WHAT A REPULSIVE CITY THIS IS...
IT HAS NO HISTORY OR ANYTHING WORTH MENTIONING HERE.
.....

THAT MAN... IT SEEMED LIKE HE KNEW ME...
.....
!!
LET'S FINISH THIS JOB QUICKLY SO WE CAN GO HOME
THAT'S RIDICULOUS.
HE PROBABLY JUST MISTOOK YOU FOR SOMEONE ELSE HE KNEW.
I'LL KILL HIM FOR SURE.
BUT NEXT TIME...
THAT'S RIGHT... I WAS KIDNAPPED BY THIS VAMPIRE...
YOU'RE RIGHT FATHER I'M SORRY I COULDN'T DO IT RIGHT THE FIRST TIME.

THIS VAMPIRE ...
AND RENFIELD ...
KILL..?!
YES FATHER.
IF YOU CALM YOURSELF AND TRY AGAIN, YOU'LL DO JUST FINE.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT THIS WAS YOUR FIRST JOB SO IT'S UNDERSTANDABLE
WHAT CONCERNS ME THOUGH IS THAT MAN WHO KNEW ABOUT US...
DON'T TELL ME...
THESE PEOPLE ARE..!!
THEY'RE HUMANS WHO'VE DRUNK THE BLOOD OF A VAMPIRE...
IN EXCHANGE FOR IMMORTALITY AND THE POWERS OF A VAMPIRE, THEY LOSE THEIR WILL TO THAT VAMPIRE WHOSE BLOOD THEY DRANK
RENFIELD..?

THEY ESSENTIALLY BECOME SLAVES TO DO THE WORK OF VAMPIRES DURING THE DAY, FOR THEIR MASTERS WHO CAN'T WALK UNDERNEATH THE SUN.
IT'S MOST LIKELY THE REASON WHY YOUR DAUGHTER DIDN'T RECOGNIZE YOU...
THEIR MEMORIES, THEIR FEELINGS... THEY ALL BECOME CONTROLLED BY THEIR "BLOOD PARENT."
THEY LOSE THEIR WILL..?
AND THIS IS ALL IN EXCHANGE FOR THEIR LIVES../
AFTER THAT../
FIRST, WE'LL NEED TO DEFEAT THE VAMPIRE THAT'S CONTROLLING HER.
HOW CAN I FREE MARIA..?!
THEN WHAT CAN WE DO FOR HER..?!

CLICK
THEY MUST BE FROM EINSEIGRAD SPARUDA...
THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT!

HE MIGHT ALSO BE INVOLVED WITH THE EINSEIGRAD SPARUDA..!!
THE CLIENT SLY INTRODUCED TO KUROE...
KUROE..!!
WHY DO YOU KNOW MY NAME?
MARIA...
THIS MUST BE MY PUNISHMENT ...
PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU DON'T LEAVE THIS ROOM.
THEY'RE HERE.

MARIA...
HOW MUCH LONGER DO YOU PLAN ON HIDING?
DON'T TELL ME A VAMPIRE FROM EINSEIGRAD SPARUDA IS AFRAID OF AN UNARMED HUMAN?
INTERE-STING...

YOU REMAIN SO CONFIDENT EVEN THOUGH YOU KNOW WHO YOU'RE DEALING WITH...
YOU MUST BE THE ONE WHO GOT IN MARIA'S WAY EARLIER.
WHO ARE YOU?
THAT'S STRANGE ...
I CAN SENSE HIS PRESENCE, BUT HE'S NOT TRYING TO GET IN CLOSER.
I SEE NO REASON FOR TELLING YOU MY NAME
WHAT'S WRONG? WHY DON'T YOU SHOW YOURSELF?
IT'S ALMOST AS IF HE'S TRYING TO LURE ME AWAY...

YOU REALLY CAN'T... RECOGNIZE YOUR OWN FATHER?
ALL THIS TIME, I NEVER ONCE FORGOT ABOUT YOU
MARIA..
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT..?
MY... FATHER..?

YOU'RE NOT MY FATHER!
SLIDE
KILL HIM MARIA.
YOU'RE..
NO...
MARIA..
I WON'T A LET YOU CONFUSE ME ANYMORE..!
YOU'RE BEING CONTROLLED BY HIM!
SNAP OUT OF IT MARIA!
MARIA!!
BANG
BANG
AFTER I'VE KILLED YOU!
I'LL THINK ABOUT ALL THIS...

DAMN IT../
uuu...

KKK...
!!
YOUR...
FOR TURNING MY OWN DAUGHTER INTO AN ASSASSIN...
I, I'M RESPONSIBLE
NO!!
FOR ALL THE LIVES... I'VE TAKEN...
THIS MUST BE MY PUNISHMENT
YOUR DAUGHTER ISN'T AN ASSASSIN YET, SHE WASN'T THE ONE WHO SHOT YOU..!!

FINISH HIM OFF MARIA
TURN
AND IF THAT MAN GETS IN THE WAY, KILL HIM AS WELL.
I'LL BE WAITING OUTSIDE.
!!
BANG
BANG
YOU BASTARD!!
YES FATHER

?!
SLAP
STOP IT...
CLASP
SLIP
KKK...
STRAIN

WHOOSH
CRASH

MISAKI ..?!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE..?!
HURRY KUROE..!
GO!!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
HURRY UP AND GO!!
STRUGGLE
THE BLOOD PARENT... THAT VAMPIRE..!
GET HIM!!

ing MANGA

BLOOD ALONE

#Manga-Sketchbook@IrcHighway
http://www.manga-sketchbook.org/

Episode 14

WHY CRY? part 3

WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?
OH..?
WERE YOU ABLE TO DEFEAT MARIA?
!!

HOW MANY..?
BY FORCING THEM TO DRINK YOUR BLOOD...
HOW MANY OTHER PAWNS LIKE HER HAVE YOU MADE?
PAWNS..?
I DON'T VERY MUCH APPRECIATE YOUR DESCRIPTION OF OUR RELATIONSHIP
IF I HADN'T GIVEN THAT GIRL MY BLOOD, SHE WOULD HAVE DIED LONG AGO
DO YOU KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE WHEN YOU KNOW YOU'RE GOING TO DIE BUT CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT?

IN RETURN YOU'VE TAKEN HER LIFE AND FREE WILL...
AND MADE HER POINT A GUN AT HER REAL FATHER...
WHAT I DID WAS SAVE HER LIFE.
NOT ONLY DID I GIVE HER THE POWER TO CHEAT DEATH, I GAVE HER LIFE MEANING.
IT'S A SMALL PRICE TO PAY
FOR CHEATING DEATH
IN RETURN...
THIS IS SIMPLY HOW WE DO THINGS.
NOW SHE NO LONGER HAS TO CARRY AROUND THE PAIN AND SUFFERING CAUSED BY HER PAST MEMORIES AND EMOTIONS

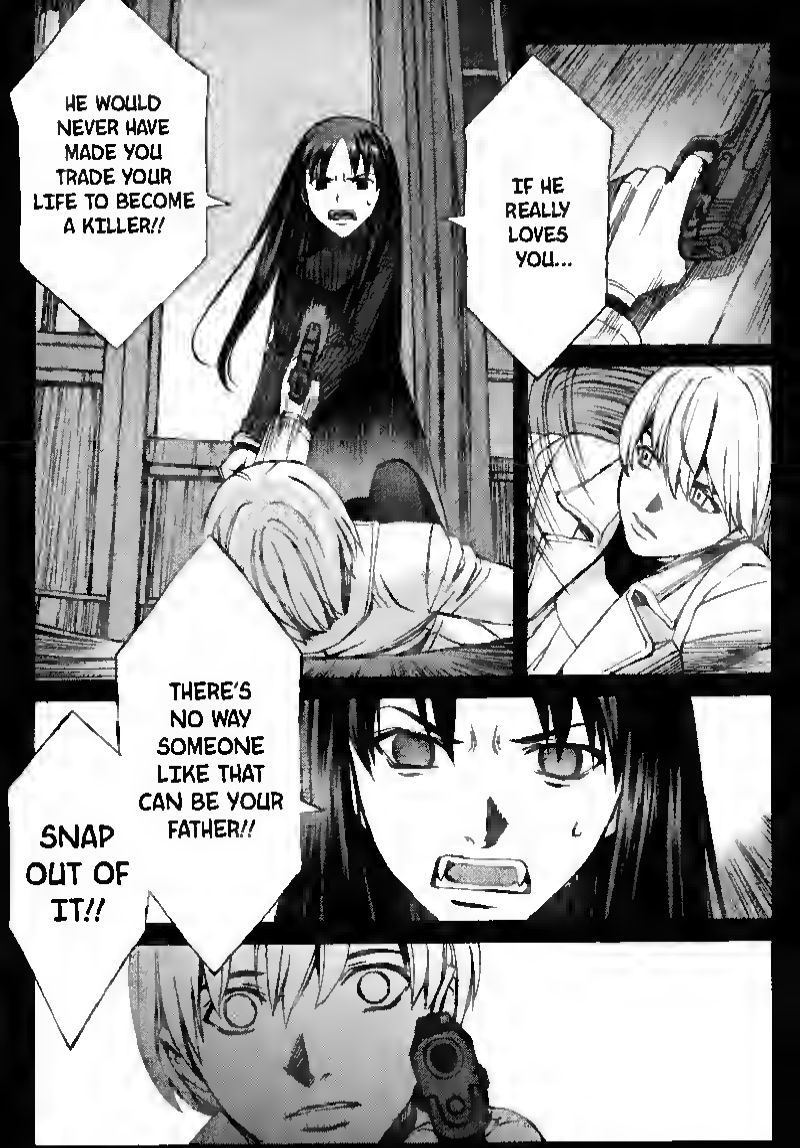
NOT ONLY HAVE I GIVEN HER RENEWED LIFE
I'VE SHOWN HER LOVE AS WELL.
BECAUSE YOU'RE HER YOUNGER BROTHER, I FEEL THIS IS SOMETHING I HAVE TO TELL YOU.
IT MAY BE PAINFUL TO HEAR, BUT I WANT YOU TO CALM YOURSELF AND LISTEN TO WHAT I HAVE TO SAY...
REGARDING YOUR SISTER...

IT'S THE SAME TECHNIQUES A FOOLISH WOMAN THAT ONCE DARED TO OPPOSE US USED.
THE WAY YOU MOVED EARLIER...
AH...! THAT'S RIGHT, I REMEMBER NOW...
BUT I SEE WHERE YOU GET YOUR ARROGANT CONFIDENCE FROM.
I DON'T KNOW WHERE YOU LEARNED THOSE TECHNIQUES
I GET IT NOW...
IT SEEMS YOU'LL BE WALKING THE SAME PATH AS HER...
BUT OF COURSE, I HEARD THAT WOMAN ALSO GOT TOO ARROGANT AND IT COST HER HER LIFE.

OR IS IT THAT YOU'RE REGRETTING HAVING PICKED A FIGHT WITH ME AND MY ORGANIZATION?
IT EVEN SEEMS AS THOUGH YOUR BREATHING HAS GOTTEN ERRATIC. DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE TIRED ALREADY?
WHAT'S WRONG? DID I SCARE YOU?
THAT'S ENOUGH TALK.
SHUT UP.
BUT IT'S TOO LATE TO BEG FOR YOUR LIFE NOW.
BRING IT.
I'LL TURN YOU INTO ASHES.

HE'S JUST USING YOU!!
DON'T LISTEN TO HIM ANYMORE!!
.....
LET GO OF ME...
THAT'S WHY I WOULD DO ANYTHING FOR MY FATHER.
IF IT WASN'T FOR MY FATHER I WOULD HAVE DIED LONG AGO.
HE GAVE ME HIS BLOOD AND SAVED ME FROM DEATH
NO, YOU'RE WRONG ...
MY FATHER LOVES ME.
.....!!

THEY ONLY SEE RENFIELDS AS DISPOSABLE TOOLS!!
THE VAMPIRES IN THE EINSEIGRAD SPARUDA...
THEY GIVE THEIR BLOOD TO HUMANS AND TURN THEM INTO THEIR PAWNS!!
THAT'S JUST HOW THEY WORK!!
THAT'S NOT TRUE!!
I KNOW HE LOVES ME..!!
MY FATHER TOLD ME I'M PRECIOUS TO HIM!!
IF YOU'RE REALLY PRECIOUS TO HIM...
PEACE


HE WOULD NEVER HAVE MADE YOU TRADE YOUR LIFE TO BECOME A KILLER!!
IF HE REALLY LOVES YOU...
THERE'S NO WAY SOMEONE LIKE THAT CAN BE YOUR FATHER!!
SNAP OUT OF IT!!

ARE ALL EINSEIGRAD SPARUDA MEMBERS THIS PATHETIC? IN CASE YOU'VE FORGOTTEN, I'M JUST A MERE HUMAN WITHOUT EVEN A WEAPON. STAND UP AND SHOW ME WHAT YOU'VE GOT.
CAN HUMANS REALLY MOVE LIKE THIS..?!
WHA... WHAT THE HELL IS HE?!
WHAT'S WRONG? WEREN'T YOU GOING TO KILL ME?
KKK..!
DON'T GET SO COCKY!!!
MY EYES...
YOU DON'T HAVE THE GUTS TO KILL WITH YOUR OWN HANDS?
.....!!
EVEN THOUGH YOU CAN FORCE A CHILD TO KILL...
OR DON'T TELL ME...

LOOK INTO...
MY EYES!!
TWITCH
NOW THEN, DON'T YOU DARE MOVE...
THAT'S RIGHT, STAY STILL JUST LIKE THAT...
SHLANK
I WANT YOU TO USE THIS TO...
SLIDE

STAB YOURSELF IN THE HEART.
STAB
IN THE SUBWAYS OF LONDON
I ONCE MET A MAGICIAN...
WHA..?!
AND FROM THAT MAGICIAN...
DON'T...
DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE..!!

I OBTAINED THE SKILLS NEEDED TO KILL YOUR KIND.
KUROE..!!
THAT'S RIGHT.
THAT'S MY NAME.

MA...
!!
TAP
RUSTLE
KILL THAT MAN!!
KI...
MARIA..!!

Note: Adivuarat Kurai = The eyes that see the truth

THE EYES THAT SEE THE TRUTH WHICH CAN UNLOCK THE TRUTH BEHIND ANY HEART...
THE MAN WAS LUCKY HE WASN'T SHOT ANYWHERE VITAL...
OR WAS THAT PART OF YOUR MAGIC AS WELL?
I CAN'T DO ANYTHING THAT SPECIAL.
IT WAS INTENTIONAL TO BEGIN WITH..
HE PURPOSELY MISSED ANY VITAL SPOTS SO THAT HE COULD MAKE THE DAUGHTER FINISH HIM OFF
MISAKI WAS A BIG HELP.
SO THEN HE WOULD HAVE MADE THE DAUGHTER KILL HER OWN FATHER HUH?
SO... WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS NOW?
HMP— I SEE THEIR TWISTED SENSE IN TASTE HASN'T CHANGED VERY MUCH

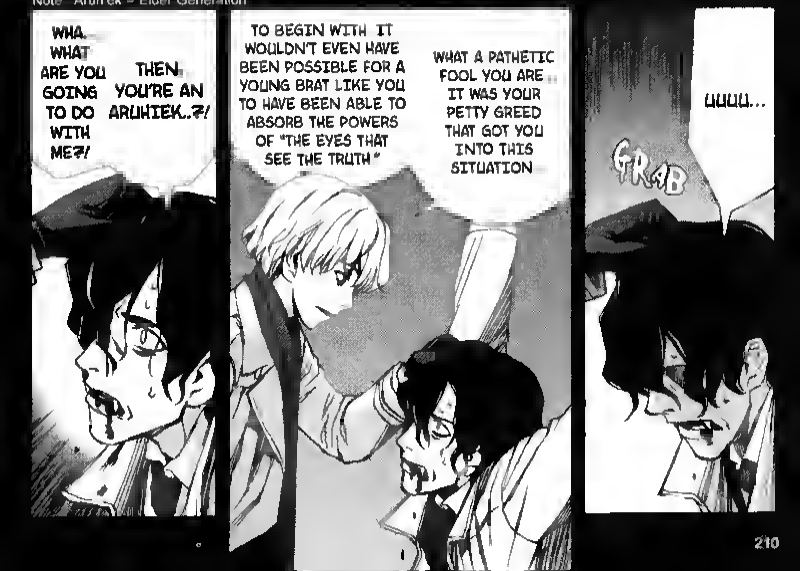
WHAT DO YOU PLAN ON DOING ABOUT HER BLOOD TIES?
YOU STILL HAVE THE PROBLEM OF THE DAUGHTER BEING A RENFIELD
EVEN IF YOU RID THE FATHER AND DAUGHTER FROM THEM...
IF SHE'S CUT OFF FROM THE BLOOD PARENT COMPLETELY SHE'LL SUCCUMB TO EXCRUCIATING PAIN
I WAS HOPING THAT MR HIGURE. YOU WOULD DO ME A FAVOR
.....
NO, I MEAN ...
I WAS HOPING THAT YOU WOULD...
THAT'S...
THA...
AND YOU ACTUALLY THOUGHT I WOULD INVOLVE MYSELF JUST BECAUSE YOU BOWED YOUR HEAD AND ASKED ME NICELY?
THIS MATTER CONCERNS THE EINSEIGRAD SPARUDA...

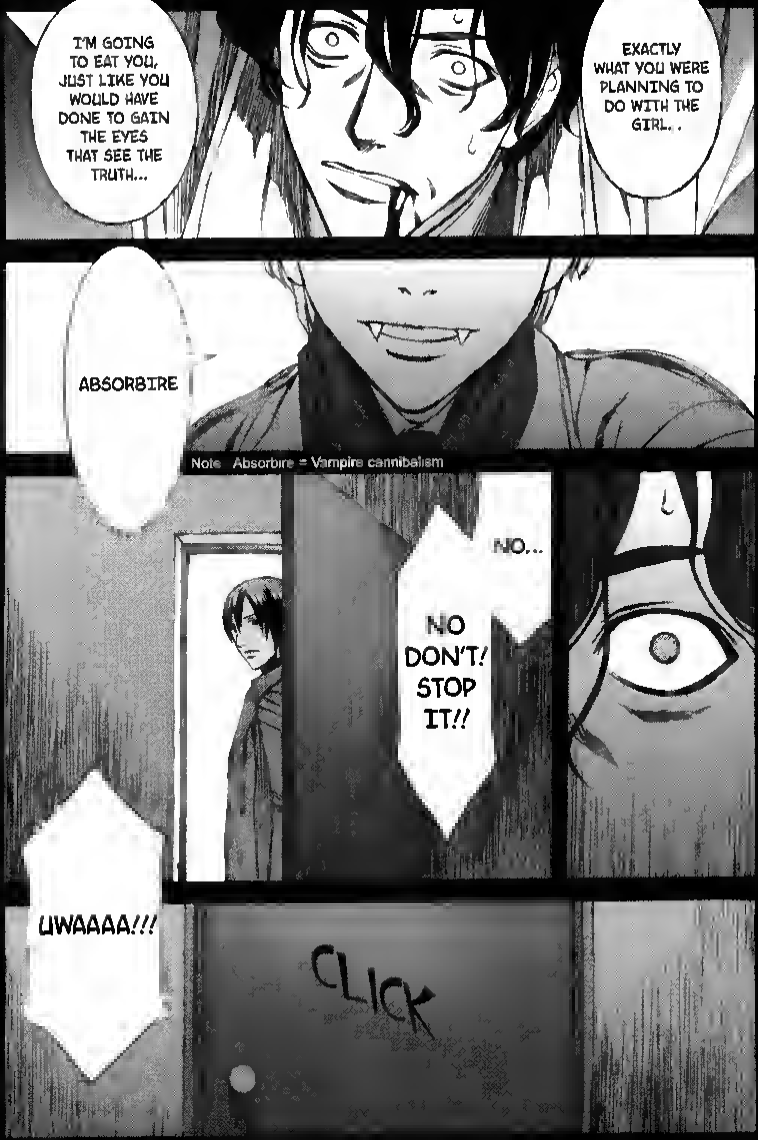
FROM NOW ON YOU CAN JUST CALL ME HIGURE
HIGURE
.....
WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? SHOW ME WHERE HE IS
.....

HE'S IN THIS PITIFUL STATE, AND HE STILL MANAGES TO TALK BIG. KIDS THESE DAYS../
STEP
.....
HONESTLY
IF YOU KEEP ME ALIVE LIKE THIS, I SWEAR I'LL KILL YOU ONCE I'VE HEALED
WHO THE HELL IS HE..?!
WATCH WHAT YOU SAY TO ME BRAT, I'M...

I SWEAR, KIDS THESE DAYS DON'T EVER SHOW ANY RESPECT TO THEIR ELDERS.
I'D LIKE TO GET A CHANCE TO HAVE A CHAT WITH YOUR BLOOD PARENT.
UWAAAAA!!!

Note - Aruhiek = Elder Generation


WHA- WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH ME?!
THEN, YOU'RE AN ARUHIEK..?!
TO BEGIN WITH, IT WOULDN'T EVEN HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE FOR A YOUNG BRAT LIKE YOU TO HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ABSORB THE POWERS OF "THE EYES THAT SEE THE TRUTH."
WHAT A PATHETIC FOOL YOU ARE... IT WAS YOUR PETTY GREED THAT GOT YOU INTO THIS SITUATION
UUUU...
GRAB


I'M GOING TO EAT YOU, JUST LIKE YOU WOULD HAVE DONE TO GAIN THE EYES THAT SEE THE TRUTH...
EXACTLY WHAT YOU WERE PLANNING TO DO WITH THE GIRL...
ABSORBIRE
Note: Absorbire = Vampire cannibalism
NO...
NO DON'T! STOP IT!!
UWAAAA!!!
CLICK

To Be Continued In Blood Alone Volume 3!!

BLOOD ALONE
2
BLOOD ALONE
2
STEVEN T. SEAGLE
ISBN 1-59697-252-1
50995
9 781596 972520
Price : $9.95 US
Price : $11.99 Canada
GRAPHIC NOVEL
T+
13+
infinity studios
www.infinitystudios.com